Comelec propped up Recto, says Puwersa

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2001 ★ 60 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 192 ₱15

GMA sees sinister plot in kidnappings

By Martin P. Marfil

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said a series of abductions in Metro Manila appeared to be the handiwork of political enemies out to destabilize the country.

The President spoke of a conspiracy against her administration following the brief abduction of a daughter of a Chinese-Filipino businessman.

GMA/ A21

Noli can hardly wait

By A. Nocum

SENATOR-ELECT Noli de Castro is quite an eager beaver.

On Monday, he became the first of the neophyte senators to have a look-see at the Senate and he even

NOLI/ A6

MAGANDANG GABI SENATE!

HAPPY talk, it would appear, from President Macapagal at her weekly press conference Tuesday where she tackles varied subjects from the Abu Sayyaf to kidnappings to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez . . . JOAN BONDOC

How ransom was paid

Bandits asked hostages how much they could afford

By Arlyn dela Cruz

"MAGKANO ang kaya ninyo **(How much can you afford)?"**

One after the other, Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Solaiman asked the hostages at the height of the firefight between the military and the Abu Sayyaf in Lamitan, Basilan, three weeks ago.

Solaiman was killed in that Lamitan encounter. But that was not the end of the ransom negotiation. The Abu Sayyaf Group's (ASG) spokesperson, Abu Sabaya, took over.

When Solaiman was trying to find out the price tags for each hostage, everyone responded by bargaining. Except for one. Lalaine Chua, 15. She was one of the youngest among the hostages and the only one who had no relative among the kidnapped victims.

This story was narrated by one of the Dos Palmas hostages released by the Abu Sayyaf. Both the government and the Abu Sayyaf are denying negotiations are going on for the payment of ransom. But relatives of the freed hostages told this reporter in an exclusive interview that they indeed had paid ransom.

The Abu Sayyaf, they said, is expected to release more hostages this week.

The INQUIRER cannot identify its sources for security reasons and the safety of the others still being held by the Abu Sayyaf.

HOW/ A20

UP to his neck in paper work, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada suddenly gets very busy on his first day of house arrest. EDWIN BACASMAS

Gloria: Nani can't serve as negotiator

By Juliet L. Javellana and Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has rejected a proposal by the Abu Sayyaf that Justice Secretary Hernando Perez be sent to negotiate for the release of its American and Filipino hostages.

"It's a policy of the government that a Cabinet member should not be a negotiator, and I agree with the President," Perez told reporters yesterday, after a Cabinet meeting where a purported letter from the Abu Sayyaf was discussed.

The President herself refused to comment on the government's response to the supposed letter delivered to her Saturday by ex-hostage Francis Ganzon.

"I'm not replying through the media. Negotiations should not be done through the media. Nothing through the media," said the President, who had earlier sought a news blackout on the government's operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

The military operations are supposedly costing the government at least P8 million a week—and this amount is only for ground troops hunting down some 400 Abu Sayyaf gunmen in Basilan.

A military officer who spoke on condition of anonymity said that from an initial four Army battalions, the ground troops had reached a peak of eight battalions—six from the Army and two from the Marines.

"For combat operations, we normally spend

GLORIA/ A20

Safe-conduct pass for Robot turned down

THERE will be no safe-conduct pass for bandit leader Galib Andang alias Commander Robot, whose surrender is being brokered by outgoing Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday emphatically corrected a reporter who asked her at her weekly news conference about the status of Singson's application for a safe-conduct pass for Andang, leader of the Sulu faction of the Abu Sayyaf.

Ms Macapagal said she spoke with Singson the other day and was assured that the governor was not seeking such a pass for Andang.

"No, no, no," she said. "He's not asking for a safe-conduct pass for Robot. I talked to Chavit yesterday. I hope you're wrong and I also hope I was not wrong because Robot will not get a safe-conduct pass."

The bandit leader made international headlines last year for abducting 21 mostly European tourists from the Malaysian island of

SAFE-CONDUCT/ A21

Basilan folk resort to 'hamurabi'

By Alexander M. Young and Julie Alipala-Inot
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Frustrated at the military's failure to protect their villages from the Abu Sayyaf scourge, angry Basileños are planning to take things into their own hands.

Mayor Tahira Ismael of Lantawan town said her constituents were doing a *hamurabi*, a Muslim practice of self-defense, in confronting the hostage-taking bandits.

"An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a life for a life," she said.

Even without being deputized by the government, residents have begun arming themselves and have joined the military in going after the Abu Sayyaf group that attacked their town on June 11.

The bandits, led by Isnilon Japilon, razed a chapel and attacked the 300-hectare Golden Harvest Plantation in Barangay Tairan.

They seized 60 people, mostly women and children, as they fled, and freed 45 of them an hour later. Two of the hostages were found dead.

Ismael said the presence of government soldiers in Tairan, site of more recent clashes, did not seem to bother the Abu Sayyaf. That is why, she said, the residents were taking on the problem themselves.

"They are not relying on the military anymore. The military presence is not an assurance of our safety," the mayor said in Filipino.

Ismael said the Abu Sayyaf now controlled

BASILEÑOS/ A21

Jinggoy wants more free time

By Volt Contreras, Agnes E. Donato and Cathy Yamsuan

AFTER the Sandiganbayan granted outgoing San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada a five-day temporary liberty, he and his co-accused father, ousted President Joseph Estrada, yesterday asked for more, this time a "30-day house arrest."

But state prosecutors grumbled in seeing Jinggoy go home and start enjoying a few restful days at the Estradas' North Greenhills residence in San Juan.

Prosecutor Humphrey Monteroso said he would file a manifestation asking the anti-graft court to amend its June 18 ruling that granted Jinggoy temporary liberty from June 19 to 23.

Instead of allowing Jinggoy to stay overnight at North Greenhills, the court should compel him to return to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center "after office hours" during his temporary liberty, Monteroso said.

Otherwise, the young Estrada would be enjoying what would be tantamount to a temporary house arrest, which has "no legal basis," the government lawyer said.

But Jinggoy said he had so much pending work to attend to that his five-

JINGGOY/ A20

Kalaw blames Reds for '71 blast

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Juliet L. Javellana

ANOTHER survivor of the 1971 Plaza Miranda bombing, former Sen. Eva Estrada Kalaw, believes that communist leader Jose Ma. Sison—not the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos—was behind the attack on opposition candidates.

Kalaw yesterday told the INQUIRER that she based her conclusion on a "written statement" from one of the alleged attackers, which she had kept for the last 15 years.

She withheld the man's identity, but said the attacker had confessed that Sison was the "mastermind" behind the bombing of the proclamation rally of Liberal Party senatorial candidates at Plaza Miranda on Aug. 21, 1971.

Kalaw made the disclosure when asked to comment on the revelations made by fellow Plaza Miranda survivor, former Senate President Jovito Salonga, in his new book, "A Journey of Struggle and Hope."

In his book, Salonga said Sison and a handful of top Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) leaders ordered the bombing in order to push the moderates into joining the communist insurgents.

Salonga, citing three sources, said that Sison ordered NPA fighter Danny Cordero and two accomplices to throw two grenades at the LP rally.

Salonga did not mention that there was a third grenade.

Nine people died and scores of Marcos opponents were seriously wounded, among them Salonga who still bears grenade shrapnel in his body.

But Sison yesterday turned the tables on Salonga.

KALAW/ A6

KALAW: Written confession from a man who was to throw the third grenade at Plaza Miranda.

Second FRONT PAGE

ANO BA TALAGA?

Gloria forms body on internal security

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said that she plans to put up a new committee to tackle internal security.

This, she said, would be different from Cabinet cluster E that handles security as it is headed by the foreign affairs secretary, Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

"I'm dividing the work... with that kind of structure, it's (cluster E's) outlook is more about external security. So the other one, the committee on internal security, its outlook will be internal security," Ms. Macapagal said.

Comelec propped up Recto, says Puwersa

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

WAS the public duped when the Commission on Elections proclaimed the 13 winning senators on June 5?

A lawyer for the opposition Puwersa ng Masa yesterday claimed that that official Comelec canvass reports showed that Sen. Ralph Recto's national tally as of June 4 still included the 30,000 padded votes in Zamboanga del Norte which the National Board of Canvassers had earlier ordered deducted from Recto.

PnM counsel Rufus Rodriguez said Recto should have been the 13th placer during the proclamation because Sen. Gregorio Honasan would have had a lead of 7,164 votes over Recto had the appropriate correction been made.

The Comelec's senatorial tally which became the basis for Resolution 01-005 proclaiming the 13 senators showed Recto and Honasan getting 10,387,108 and 10,364,272 votes, respectively, as of June 4.

But Rodriguez claimed that Recto's total at the time of the proclamation still included the 30,000 allegedly padded votes in Zamboanga del Norte which the NBC had ordered deducted as part of the corrections made in the national canvass in Resolution 01-003.

Recto's votes in Zamboanga del Norte as reflected in Comelec Canvass Report No. 20 as totaling 117,095.

"The 117,095 votes of Recto (in Zamboanga del Norte) should have been reduced and corrected to 87,095 but was never done," Rodriguez claimed in a petition asking the NBC to correct the tally.

Rodriguez said Recto's national vote should thus have been 10,357,108, which would have placed him in the No. 13 position after Honasan.

"The NBC should investigate those responsible for this manifest error, if not deliberate attempt to unduly prop up Recto as the 12th placer over Honasan during the June 5 proclamation," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said the PnM reviewed the final tally and detected the "error" after getting a "tip" from a Comelec insider.

Rodriguez also asked in his petition that the NBC amend Resolution NBC 01-005 to reflect the agreement reached by the NBC and the lawyers of the political parties that the proclamation would not prejudice Sen. Loi Ejercito's petition to correct "errors" in Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte.

The NBC is set to reconvene today to receive the certificate of canvass of Lanao del Sur which was sealed on Monday night with only 36 out of 39 municipal COCs submitted.

The COCs from Ditsaan Ramain, Lumbatan and Madalum have not arrived yet.

Results from 31 towns and Marawi City showed Recto leading with 74,696 votes over Honasan's 50,643. Ejercito, the 12th placer in the national tally, got 31,700 votes.

The final results in Lanao del Sur could not be determined yet because the figures for the towns of Bubong, Lumbayanague, Lumba-Bayabao and Mulondo were not made available to media.

Recto's counsel, Romulo Macalintal, said Recto would lead Honasan by 55,000 in the final national canvass.

"The fight now is between Estrada (Ejercito) and Recto for the No. 11 and 12 positions," Macalintal said. "The 13th place is no longer an issue."

Rodriguez said he would not be surprised if Recto were to overtake Ejercito because of the alleged massive padding of votes for Recto and other candidates of the administration's People Power Coalition in Mindanao.

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HOUSE SPEAKERSHIP

Abad, De Venecia to settle row Friday

By Christine Avendaño

THE BATTLE for the post of speaker of the House could be over on Friday when the leading contenders in the People Power Coalition, Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad and Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia, are to meet to resolve the question.

Then again, it may not.

Both Abad, president of the Liberal Party, and De Venecia, chair of Lakas-NUCD, gave no indication during yesterday's Bulung Pulungan forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza hotel in Pasay City that each would give way to the other.

The Friday meeting of Abad and De Venecia was set by the former after President Macapagal-Arroyo told PPC aspirants to the post they should resolve the matter among themselves.

Abad said Ms Macapagal had lunch over the weekend with him and other aspirants, but without De Venecia. At the lunch were Abad, Representatives Federico Sandoval, Raul del Mar and a representative of Carlos Padilla. All have expressed an interest in contesting the leadership of the House.

PPC is made up of Lakas, LP, Aksyon Demokratiko and Reporma.

"(The President) wants us to get together and solve this without her intervention," Abad said. "That would be the best (solution). But if that doesn't happen she may come in as head of the coalition and try to broker an arrangement acceptable to us."

The President, Abad said, wanted them to resolve the matter because she preferred to have the speaker come from the coalition. She also did not want to see the coalition split up because of the leadership battle as this would bode no good for the administration's legislative agenda.

"She's concerned that those who may not succeed in getting the post of speaker may be relegated to the minority and she doesn't want to see members of the coalition to be in the minority," Abad said. "If there is going to be a minority it has to be the natural minority, which is the Nationalist People's Coalition."

Abad said though he did not plan to back down.

"I told him (De Venecia) that if he is agreeable to becoming the king-maker and the elder statesman of the House, we will have no problem about the speakership," he said.

De Venecia is just as firm in his bid to regain the House leadership.

He said at the Bulung Pulungan that he was "reaching out" to Abad, to make him join his camp instead.

"I face this problem with extreme humility and in friendship. I would like to reach out to everyone," De Venecia said.

The former speaker said that three aspirants had already withdrawn in his favor—Representatives Raul Gonzalez, Neptali Gonzales III, and Prospero Pichay—and that two others would also announce they would withdraw.

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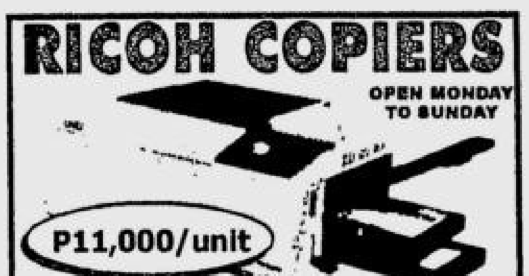
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Navy nabs 12 Sino poachers

A NAVY patrol boat arrested 12 Chinese nationals suspected of poaching endangered sea turtles in waters off a Philippine wildlife preserve, the military said Tuesday.

A patrol boat fired a single warning shot at the poaching vessel near Palawan and then forced it to land, the military report said.

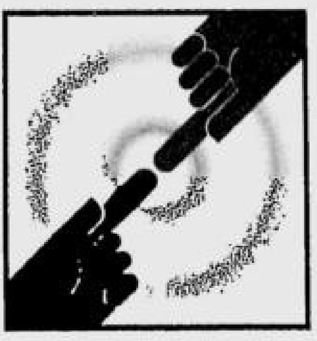
The incident happened Thursday but was not reported until Tuesday.

The report said the navy arrested all 12 Chinese nationals on board and confiscated the cargo of live sea turtles. The navy photographed the sea turtles for evidence, but the report did not say whether the crew members were charged.

Chinese fishing boats are frequently sighted off Palawan, which is east of the disputed Spratly Islands, claimed by the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Brunei and Malaysia.

Philippine authorities say the poachers usually poison waters with cyanide and dynamite coral reefs—both illegal fishing methods—in the pristine area.

In May 1999, a Philippine patrol boat accidentally sank a Chinese fishing boat with warning shots in Philippine waters. A year later, the skipper of another Chinese fishing boat was killed as his crew exchanged gunfire with a Philippine coast guard ship. Seven crew members were arrested but later released. *AP*



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Abu Sayyaf not part of Tripoli talks agenda

BY TJ BURGONIO AND ALLAN A. NAWAL
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE ÁLLEGED links between the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the extremist Abu Sayyaf will not be on the agenda of the peace talks between the MILF and the government, which start today in Tripoli, Libya.

Secretary Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process, said the government would not raise the issue because it was convinced that the MILF had nothing to do with the bandit group.

"I don't see how the Abu Sayyaf thing would come in unless somebody would bring up the issue of whether the government believes in the MILF's being involved with the Abu Sayyaf or not. That issue has been raised often enough," Ermita told a press conference before leaving for Tripoli late Monday.

Jesus Dureza, the chair of the negotiating panel, said he had raised the issued officially with the MILF and they had responded with a strong denunciation of the un-Islmaic activities of the Abu Sayyaf.

Military allegation

The MILF on Monday threatened to file a formal complaint over the military's allegations that it was aiding the bandits, who are holding 26 hostages seized in two separate incidents from a Palawan resort and from a hospital in Lamitan, Basilan.

The two sides are expected to take up three major issues during three days of preliminary talks: the implementation of previous agreements reached in 1996, pertaining to the cessation of hostilities, ancestral lands and the development of rebel-controlled areas.

The MILF has so far not made any demands for the inclusion of more provinces and cities in a Muslim-led autonomous region nor revived its claim for an independent Islamic state, said Ermita, who met with MILF leaders in Kuala Lumpur on March 24.

Voters' choice

Four predominantly Muslim provinces in Mindanao voted to form themselves into the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao following a peace agreement in 1996 between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front, the mainstream Muslim insurgency.

The MILF broke away from the MNLF in 1978 and was left out of the peace accord.

Dureza said the government hoped to complete the talks with the MILF in 18 months.

"We're hopeful that it will move fast because the initial agreement that was signed in preparation for this meeting in Tripoli has already opened a lot of opportunities," he said.

Besides, Ermita added, the framework has already been set in place and "all we have to do is work within the framework."

Shifting venues

After the Libyan talks, succeeding talks will be held in "shifting venues" between Tripoli and the capitals of fellow Organization of Islamic Conference members Malaysia and Indonesia, which will act as mediators, said Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr.

Guingona, who left for Libya on Monday to attend the opening ceremonies, voiced optimism that the talks would enhance bilateral relations with Tripoli.

"There are more than 5,000 Filipinos who work and live in Libya and the Philippine government is committed to the protection and the promotion of their welfare," he said.

In an interview in Digos City, Dureza admitted that negotiations alone will not solve the 32-year-old rebellion in the South.

Dureza, who is also presidential assistant for regional concerns in Southern Mindanao, said the government realizes this, which is why it has undertaken economic programs there, particularly in the war-torn regions.

Gov't neglect

"No matter how many negotiations we undertake, there will be no peace if there is no development," Dureza said.

Murad Ebrahim, Al Haj, the MILF's chief negotiator, also expressed optimism for the success of the talks.

Ebrahim, in an interview from his Kuala Lumpur base, said the feeling that they have been neglected by the government was what fueled the rebellion of the "Bangsamoro."

"If the government can prove its sincerity in uplifting the lives of the Bangsamoro and the resolution of other issues such as land problems, including ancestral domains, then I don't think people would have reasons to rebel," Ebrahim said.

On the question of the MILF's demand for independence, Ebrahim said it also depends on how the government would succeed in addressing major issues.

"If the Bangsamoro would say they are already satisfied with the way government is treating them and that they do not want to secede anymore, then the MILF would have no more reasons to demand for independence. We are just representing the people and we will follow their will," he said.

The MNLF has sent a seven-person delegation to Tripoli.

But Dr. Parouk Hussein, MNLF foreign affairs chief, said Nur Misuari, who was recently ousted as chair of the MNLF, was not among those who left for Libya on Monday.

"He was not granted a visa by the Libyan government," Hussein said. *With reports from Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Roco hits back at grumbling private schools

By Blanche S. Rivera

STRESSING he is not pampering anyone, Education Secretary Raul Roco yesterday castigated the private schools for grumbling against his pro-public school teachers programs and reiterated his firm backing for the welfare of the government faculty.

Roco also shrugged off the fear expressed by the Federation of Association of Private Schools Administrators that the incentives given by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports to its government tutors would "hasten the death" of private learning centers.

"If they are really good, they would survive," Roco said in yesterday's launch of the health information program of the DECS and Department of Health.

"The problem with Fapsa is that it is thinking of tuition. I think some private schools should remember that education is not a business... but a service," Roco added.

Roco said Malacañang has agreed to allocate a portion of the P1-billion budget intended for soft loans supposedly for government teachers, for their counterparts in private institutions.

"I don't see why they're complaining," Roco said. "We recognize that they contribute to the educational system. But I cannot do it just by myself, they have to tell me if they need my help."

He made the remark as the Alliance of Concerned Teachers and the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines rushed to the defense of the DECS chief in his bid to improve the plight of the public school teachers.

In a statement, ACT president Carol Almeda lambasted the Fapsa for wanting to "keep their teachers poorly paid and intimidated to exact the most profit from the outrageous (fees) they charge."

"Because an overwhelming majority of private school owners are not really educators but unfeeling capitalists, they betray their allergy to such good-natured policies and programs such as salary increases, benefit payments, and democratic rights recognition," said the ACT, which represents around 100,000 government teachers.

Almeda said the "modest efforts" of the DECS under Roco were merely a dent in the sorry economic plight of public school teachers, who have been overworked and underpaid for the longest time.

The CEAP said that Roco's successful attempts to help the public school teachers and his promptness in addressing the problems of private schools should pave the way for "the improvement of not only of private education but of the whole education (system) in our country."

Roco worked out a tax amnesty for government tutors and has arranged for the Government Services Insurance system to reserve P5 billion to buy out the teachers' loans so they could pay their borrowings at a lower interest rate.

He is trying to get the finance department to give the same benefits for private school teachers, but said he has not yet received feedback from the administration.

The government is set to raise by five percent the wages of all government employees this year even as the militant groups demand a bigger wage hike.

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Sto. Tomas is president of ILO gab

LABOR Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas has been elected president of the 89th annual conference of the International Labor Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, according to the Labor department.

With Sto. Tomas at the ILO are labor leader Democrito Mendoza, president of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, and employer delegate Miguel Varela, chairman of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines.

Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson also accompanied Sto. Tomas as alternate government delegate in the tripartite ILO Conference.

In a press statement, the Department of Labor said this Asian and Philippine presidency at the ILO would give the Philippines a great opportunity to promote the welfare of overseas Filipino workers and other migrant workers.

Winning the ILO presidency affirms the recognition of Asean and other nations worldwide in the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration and its ability to manage effectively the crises besetting the country.

In her address, Sto. Tomas said: "Globalization is the mantra of the millennium. All it means is that we have to produce more, serve better and do both at the lowest possible cost. The theory is that if competition were unhampered by tariff and non-tariff barriers, it would be a better world or would it not?"

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INQUIRER chair Marixi R. Prieto (second from right) presents a certificate of recognition and cash prize to Arlene Basinang of Maltana Elementary School in South Cotabato for being chosen as one of the most outstanding graduates for schoolyear 2000-2001 under the aegis of the PDI Newsboy Foundation. Other outstanding graduates include Gladys Anne Angeles of Dr. A. Albert Elementary School in Sampaloc, Manila; Catherine Changco of Claro M. Recto High School in Manila; Analyn Yanga of Holy Family Academy in Angeles City; and James Paul Morante of UP Visayas in Iloilo City. Others in photo are: (l-r) INQUIRER senior vice president for sales and marketing Rene R. Reinoso; Basinang; Ms Prieto and INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez. The PDI Newsboy Foundation sends close to 400 scholars to both primary and secondary schools nationwide.

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13TH YEAR OF CARP

Gains of land reform cited

By Cynthia D. Balana

ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez yesterday said farmer-beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program are now better off than their counterparts before martial law and those in countries with land reform programs.

Speaking at the 13th anniversary celebration of CARP sponsored by the Department of Agrarian Reform, Alvarez said that agrarian reform has gone a long way since the time of former President Diosdado Macapagal, the President's father, in 1963 despite strong criticisms from some sectors.

Alvarez was the principal author of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law in the Senate when he was still a senator.

Records showed that in the 13 years of its implementation, CARP had been able to redistribute over 5.3 million hectares out of a working scope of 8.1 million.

The DAR has distributed 3.1 million hectares or 69 percent of its target of 4.3 million while the DENR has distributed 2.3 million hectares or 61 percent of its 3.7 million target.

The 5.3 million hectares distributed by both departments accounted for 66 percent CARP's coverage and almost 50 percent of the total farmland.

This, according to Alvarez, was higher than the achievements in many Latin American countries that have implemented agrarian reform since the 1960s.

In the Philippines, the more important gains of CARP lie not in the amount of land distributed but in the improvements in farm productivity and incomes, he said.

In rice farms that have already been distributed and have received CARP-related support services, yields were even higher, or 3 metric tons per hectare compared with 2.1 metric tons per hectare in farms that have yet to be distributed.

A World Bank-sponsored study published in March 2000 found that agrarian reform has led to higher investments in farming activities. It said more beneficiaries have been able to go to school and stay in school.

The study looked at the impact of agrarian reform at the household level over a period of 14 years.

Alvarez pointed out that between 1985 and 1999, agrarian reform beneficiaries increased their profits by 80 percent.

High yielding seed varieties, production inputs, and better rural infrastructure delivered as parts of CARP's support services have paid off.

A comparative study of CARP with other land reform programs in Latin America showed that CARP's accomplishments were still at par with those of countries that have undergone substantial land reforms.

While better land reform programs were carried out under revolutionary settings, military dictatorships, or communist regimes such as Cuba, Alvarez said that CARP was still way ahead in terms of implementation as landowners have certain rights they can exercise and that due process has to be observed.

"CARP has been vilified, but the data shows that the work done in the past 13 years on agrarian reform has been positive for our beneficiaries and for the country as a whole," Alvarez said.

Alvarez said that his presence in the DAR celebration symbolized the renewed partnership of DAR and DENR in moving CARP forward.

He said that DENR was committed to fast-track the survey-related activities needed for land acquisition and distribution, and to pick up the pace of land distribution in public alienable and disposable lands.

PBA marks 110th year

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will be the guest of honor and speaker at the 110th foundation day of the Philippine Bar Association, the oldest bar association in Asia, at 6:30 p.m. today grand ballroom of the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

Federico R. Agcaoili, PBA president, said the celebration will be highlighted by the presentation of the "Roman Ozaeta Award" to retired Justice Efren I. Plana of the Supreme Court for his outstanding contribution to the enhancement of Philippine law, jurisprudence and the rule of law. PBA Secretary Rita Linda Jimeno will present the award.

The PBA will also launch its own website (Philbar.org) to enable its members to keep abreast of recent legislation and jurisprudence in line with the continuing legal education of the Supreme Court. The website will also inform the world of the association's history, leadership and activities. Director Jose Feria, Jr. will lead the launching ceremony.

Other participants are: Director J. Conrado Castro to deliver the invocation: adviser and past president Manuel A. Barcelona Jr. to acknowledge the distinguished guests; Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo to welcome the attendees; and Avelino Jr. Cruz Jr., chief presidential legal counsel and past president of the PBA, to introduce President Macapagal.

Director Antonio Velicaria will host the ceremonies.

An award of appreciation will be presented to the President for the key role she played in the "Edsa People Power II," the May 1 failed siege of the Palace and other political events to keep our democracy together.

Magsaysay-claimed Zambales land belongs to gov't, SC ruling shows

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Not one Magsaysay family member is listed as an applicant or owner of the beachfront property in Iba town here that Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay allegedly ordered taken over and barricaded on June 12.

The property is occupied by about five resorts and hundreds of households.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources showed that the disputed property in Barangay Lipay-Dingin-Panibuatan, Iba, has been subdivided or is being claimed by various parties.

In 1989, the Supreme Court ruled that the contested land still belonged to the state. That court decision remains in effect because the DENR has not approved any of the five applications for patents, or official documents confirming absolute ownership.

The disputed property comprises a portion of Lot 42 of Cadastral Survey 191 of Iba, according to Alex Navarro, community environment and natural resources officer in charge, in a memorandum sent on Monday to the DENR legal services section here.

Public domain

The DENR is the government agency responsible for classifying and disposing of public lands suitable for residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial uses.

Lot 42, certified in 1923 as an alienable and disposable zone—that is, land that private persons are allowed to own—had been subdivided into five parcels, Navarro said.

Lot 42-A is supposed to belong to the Roman Catholic Church, Lot 42-B to the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, or the Aglipayan Church, Lot 42-C to the state for a public road and Lot 42-D to the Iba municipal cemetery.

Lot 42-E, the contested lot, was earlier titled to Epifanio Romanban and Santiago Parong, who had apparently acquired the Original Certificates of Title through the courts.

The Court of Appeals, however, reverted the lot back to the public domain in 1989. The Supreme Court affirmed the decision.

The appellate court, however, allowed two new claimants to pursue their applications for ownership.

Other claimants

The DENR has not executed an order from the Office of the President to divide Lot 42-E between Romanban and Parong because there were other longtime occupants claiming rights to the area, said DENR personnel familiar with the case.

Neither the Magsaysay siblings nor their father, Jesus, were cited in the list of new applicants for patents for Lot 42, Navarro's memorandum showed.

On Monday, the Iba police said Jess Magsaysay, the owner of Jessmag Inc. which claims to be the owner of the property, furnished them a copy of a land title to the 20-hectare property that his family supposedly acquired in 1936.

On Tuesday, a lawyer for the Magsaysays claimed that five titles were obtained for the property in 1972. The family had also paid land taxes, the lawyer claimed.

It is not clear if Epifanio Romanban was related to Ramon Romanban, whom the Magsaysays have identified as the caretaker of the land, which they claim.

Ejection case

It was not also immediately known if any of the Romanbans had sold the land to the Magsaysays.

But the Magsaysays have an ejection case filed at the regional trial court in Iba against the residents of the disputed property, the INQUIRER learned.

According to DENR records, only the two churches, a certain Jorge Josafat and a certain Diego Lim have sought to obtain sales patents to the land.

The DENR has not yet approved any of these applications, Navarro said.

How the Magsaysays, the resort owners or other claimants got titles, if they actually have, to a land that is the subject of a court dispute is now being investigated, said Wilfredo Saraos, DENR assistant regional executive director for legal services.

Former Executive Secretary Ruben Torres and a retired Navy official identified only as Cortez have also reportedly acquired lots in the disputed property.

Court proceedings

Land management service personnel believe the Magsaysays could have obtained the property through court proceedings and not through the administrative process that the DENR oversees.

Saraos did not say if the justice department's Register of Deeds, which issues land titles on orders of the courts, would be placed under investigation.

According to DENR sources, the Lipay Dingin dispute indicates that the DENR, the Register of Deeds and the Land Registration Authority do not coordinate or even have records that match.

"While the case (the acquisition of the land through administrative process) was being heard in the courts, titles were being issued to influential people," a DENR source said.

Harassment and acts of terrorism have been the lot of those applicants for sales patents to Lot 42-E, a DENR investigation showed.

Gordon pushes RP tourism

By N.Bordadora

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon continued yesterday his hard-sell approach to the promotion of Philippine tourism despite the Abu Sayyaf crisis, saying the advisories against traveling to the islands being issued by other countries' embassies are more political than actual.

In a meeting with foreign travel agents at the Century Park Sheraton in Manila, Gordon said that travel advisories should be read from the political side and not from the business perspective.

"Advisories are drafted by political officers who need to present to the public these 'cover your back' memos because if something happens to the travelers while in other countries, they can say 'we warned them'," Gordon said.

Gordon issued the statement in the wake of the most recent travel advisory issued by the United States advising all its nationals to refrain if possible from traveling throughout the Philippine islands.

"In the case of the Philippines, the travel agents should know more about what's on the ground. You're here. You know that it's safe here. And I bet you, after this, you will go out into the streets of Manila," Gordon said.

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Kalaw blames Reds for '71 bombing

(From page A1)

Sison accused Salonga of receiving money from the Marcoses in exchange for naming him as the brains behind the bombing.

Sison, chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front (NDF), said Salonga's charges were false.

"How far have the Marcoses and the Marcos cronies corrupted Jovito Salonga and Steve Salonga since the time that Jovito became chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government and Steve became a notorious financial collector under the pretext of raising money for the Liberal Party?" Sison said in a statement from Utrecht.

"Has there been a recent payoff specifically for the purpose of whitewashing the crimes of Marcos and rehabilitating him at the expense of the rising forces of the national democratic movement?"

"Is the money of the Marcoses irresistible to the Salongas? Or is it the lucrative encouragement of the United States, particularly the Central Intelligence Agency?"

No longer angry

Like Salonga, Kalaw said she was not angry with Sison for ordering the attack, which also nearly killed herself and her son.

Like most people at the time, Kalaw initially blamed Marcos.

But she said she eventually believed Marcos' claim of innocence after attending a party "about 15 years ago" when she met a man who introduced himself to be among the supposed grenade throwers.

"One day I was in a party given by Captain Robles. There was somebody who approached me. And he said 'I was one of those about to throw the third bomb.'

And I said, 'why tell me?'. . . He said 'the first one who threw the bomb had been killed. The second one who threw the second bomb had also been eliminated. And I'm probably the next in line that's why I'm telling you this: It was really the Left and it is Joma Sison who was the mastermind,'" Kalaw said.

Chaos after two explosions

Kalaw said the man told her that he did not lob the grenade because of the chaos after the two explosions.

The former senator said she did not know if the man was still alive. But she said that the man gave her a handwritten statement confessing to his participation.

"I did not ask him (if he was a New People's Army fighter). He must be. I did not ask him questions. I was in a party. But the paper he gave me was in Tagalog. I have to be very careful about it," Kalaw went on.

She refused to identify the man, saying she did not have his permission to reveal his name.

Asked if she believed his claim, Kalaw said, "I did. I never knew him. He asked my host to present him to me."

She said she was still waiting for the "right time" to disclose the man's identity and his statement.

Speculations

From Utrecht, Sison said Salonga was not only trying to "assassinate my personal character" but was also engaging in discrediting the revolutionary movement.

Sison said Salonga was reviving the "hearsay and speculations" of Gregg Jones, whom he described as a CIA hack.

Salonga quoted extensively from the book "The Red Revolution" authored by Jones, who was a Washington Post correspondent.

Sison questioned Salonga's motive by saying that the former Senate President had ignored the resolution dated March 2, 1994 of the City Prosecutor's Office of Manila absolving him and others accused of the Plaza Miranda bombing.

Sison said the resolution declared that "the supposed participation of the respondents (Sison et al.) as planners or masterminds was sheer speculation" and that to indict them "based solely on the submitted sworn statements is tantamount to a hasty, malicious and oppressive prosecution."

Sison quoted the resolution from a statement of Romeo Capulong, his lawyer in the Plaza Miranda case, dated June 29, 1998, to counter what he described as "repeated attempts to recycle the baseless charge" against him.

Sison said that on April 20, 1998, then Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III issued a certification stating that the Plaza Miranda case against him had been dismissed and that there was no pending criminal charge against him in 1998.

It was the year Sison was supposed to return to the Philippines for the signing of an agreement on human rights and international humanitarian laws.

Bello is now chair of the government panel, which withdrew from last week's peace negotiations with the NDF in Oslo, Norway, to protest the NPA assassination of Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

"What could be the reason of (Salonga) for ignoring the resolution of the City Prosecutor's Office of Manila, rehashing his discredited claims against me and trying in vain to exculpate Marcos from criminal responsibility for the Plaza Miranda bombing and the 14 years of fascist dictatorship?" Sison said.

He said it was "utterly irresponsible" for Salonga to continue blaming him for the bombing after he succeeded in proving his innocence.

Malacañang itself is not interested in reviving the Plaza Miranda case against Sison.

Won't affect talks

"I think our chair of the (peace) panel has already said that it doesn't affect the peace talks because there are no preconditions and (Justice Secretary Hernando) Perez and other lawyers say the prescription period has already ended," President Macapagal-Arroyo said in a news conference.

The President said the problem posed by Salonga's charge on the peace talks would be reported to the Cabinet oversight committee on internal security that she created yesterday.

Tarlac Gov. Jose Yap, adviser to the government panel and personal emissary of then President Fidel Ramos to the NDF, said the peace negotiations would continue as soon as the government panel received Ms Macapagal's instructions.

Perez explained that Sison could no longer be charged with the crime because the 20-year prescription period for the filing of charges had lapsed.

"Second, Sison had already been charged and he had been acquitted before. Therefore the principle of double jeopardy will set in. He cannot be charged again with the same crime," Perez said.

Perez slammed

A group of lawyers accused Perez of "virtually assuming the role of defense counsel" for Sison.

Quoting the Revised Penal Code, Argee Guevarra, spokesperson of the All Reform Movement of Lawyers, said the period of prescription "shall commence from the day the crime is discovered by the offended party, the authorities, or their agents."

Guevarra advised Perez to read Article 91 of the Revised Penal Code.

It states that the prescriptive period "shall be interrupted by the filing of the complaint or information, and shall commence to run again when such proceedings terminate without the accused being convicted or acquitted, or are unjustifiably stopped for any reason not imputed to him."

"The term of prescription shall not run when the offender is absent from the Philippine archipelago," the law said.

Guevarra said that from the foregoing Perez's opinion on the Plaza Miranda case had no legal basis.

Enrile's emissaries

Kalaw also said that she believed Marcos' former defense minister, Juan Ponce Enrile, when he assured her through emissaries that the Left, and not Marcos, had ordered the attack.

"I cannot say that it's Joma (Sison's nickname) because I don't have any direct knowledge myself. But I do know this is a technique of the Left. They ride on the opposition and at the right time, they will eliminate the opposition and take over. This is a typical Left, communist technique," she said.

Kalaw said she had not read Salonga's book although she said that she agreed with his conclusion.

"Well if he knows and he has facts. That's it. But I have been informed by the third bomb thrower that it was Joma," she said.

Kalaw paused for a few seconds when asked if she had forgiven Sison.

"If it is forgiving it is personal because it's person-to-person. We're Christians. But if it's involving our country I don't think the communists should take over," she said.

Kalaw said she had accepted what happened without animosity.

"I'm not angry. If I'm angry at all it's because they (communists) are using the opposition to take over. That's what I'm angry about. But angry for (getting hurt) myself? That's part of the game. There were more people who were more hurt than I was.

Peasant group

"It happened. You cannot regret it, you cannot accept it. It's a fact. It's there. We got hurt but we won because of it. It was a landslide. We didn't think we had a chance at the time. Marcos was going to win that election," she said.

A peasant group in Southern Tagalog does not share Kalaw and Salonga's position on the bombing.

"Salonga's allegations are plain propaganda to depict Sison and his followers as plain bandits and terrorists. This is to project the image of Sison throughout the world as one incapable of leading genuine efforts for social transformation," said Orly Marcellana, secretary general of the militant Katipunan ng mga Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan.

The peasant leader maintained that there was no doubt that it was Marcos who masterminded the bombing of Plaza Miranda.

"Because they could not pin Marcos after so many years, they now turn to Sison," he said. *With a report from Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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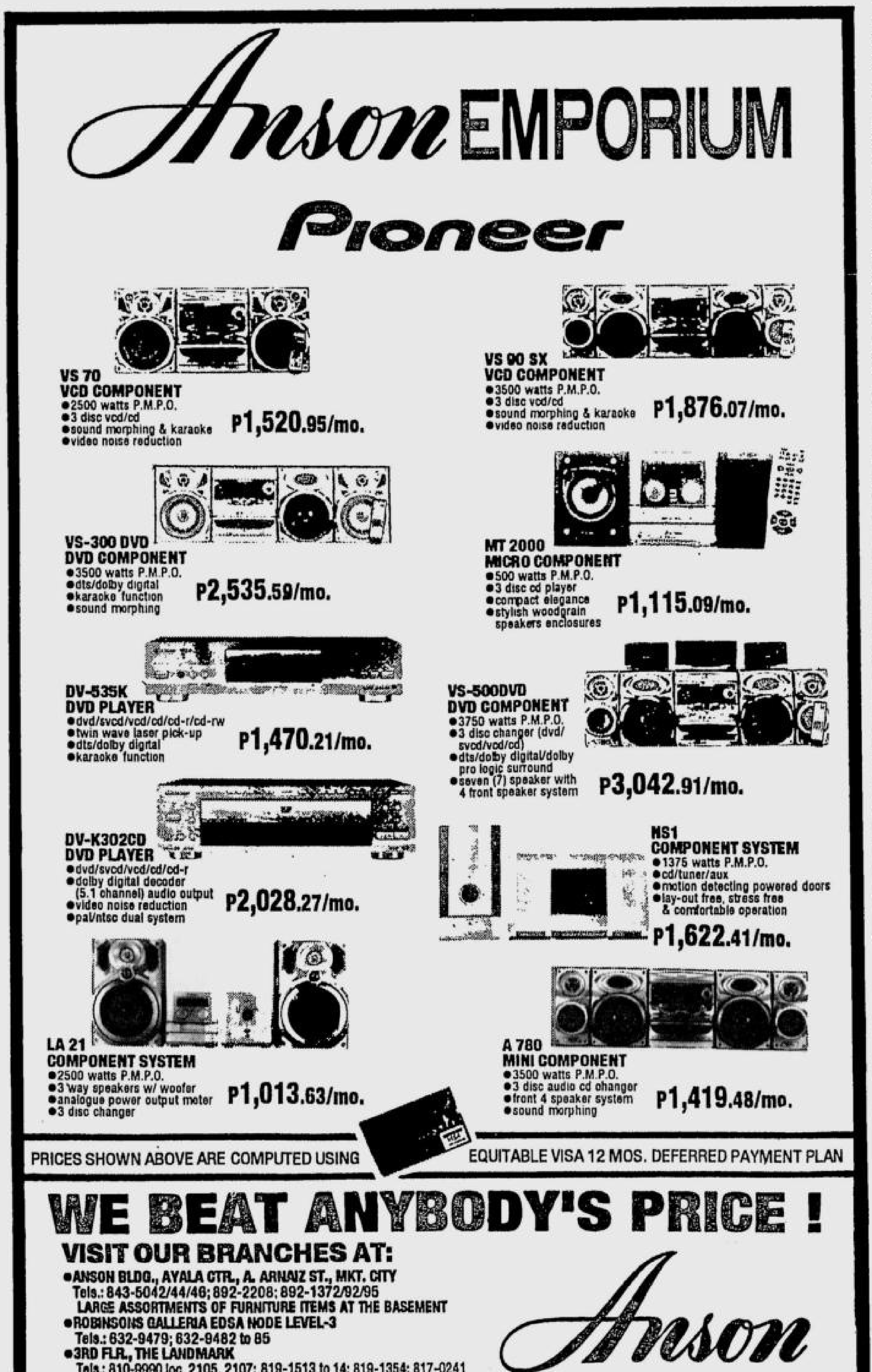

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Noli can hardly wait

(From page A1)

had his picture taken behind one of the lecterns inside the session hall as he jokingly pretended to deliver a speech.

"*Atat na atat na siya* (He can hardly wait)," Senate Secretary Lutgardo Barbo said in jest.

"He was excitedly asking where he would have to stand when he wants to interpellate," Barbo recounted to the INQUIRER yesterday. "I think he's raring to go."

De Castro, the topnotcher in the May 14 senatorial election, was at the Senate because he was invited to attend the flag ceremony of Senate employees.

After the rites, he went up the Senate building and checked out the offices of the Senate President and majority floor leader. He also looked at the spacious rooms vacated by Raul Roco, who is now education secretary, and outgoing Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

De Castro even kidded Barbo and asked whether he could start drawing lots for his room ahead of the other senators.

In contrast, Senator-elect Joker Arroyo showed very little interest and did not send anyone to the Senate yesterday when the rooms were raffled off.

"*Walang kuwenta, seremonya lang* (That's nothing, it's a mere ceremony)," Arroyo told a radio reporter who asked why he was not interested.

He said he would rather concentrate on doing legislative work.

According to Barbo, Arroyo had asked him whether it was possible not to have an office staff. If Arroyo pushes through with his plan not to get a staff, Barbo said this could save the government P600,000 monthly in personnel services and maintenance, operating and other expenses that senators are entitled to.

Each senator is allowed to hire a staff of up to 20 people.

Incidentally, during the raffling off of rooms yesterday, Arroyo got the room previously occupied by now President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Earlier this month, Arroyo also decided not to attend the Commission on Elections' proclamation ceremony of the winners in the senatorial election.

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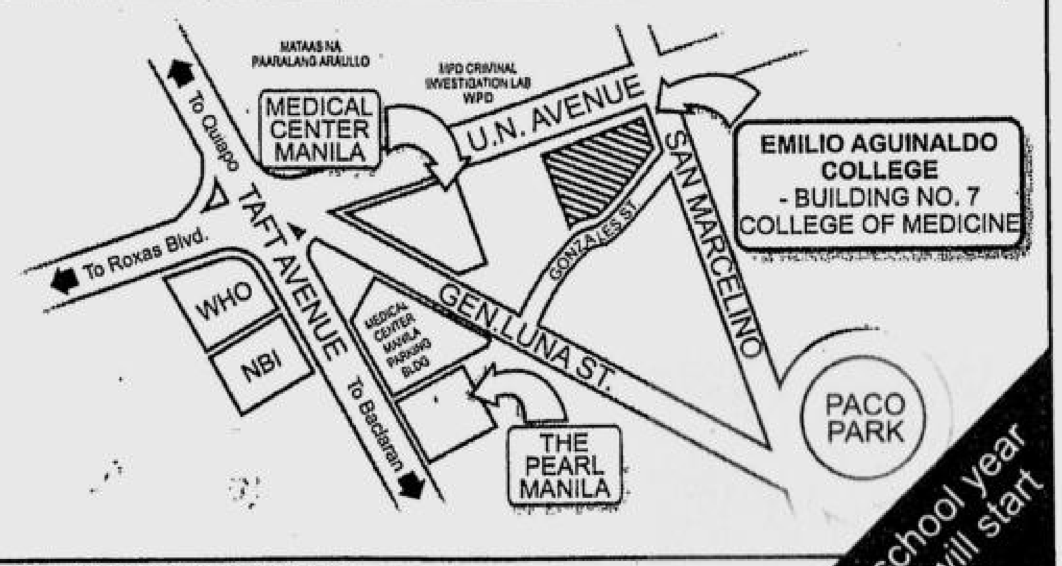
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4 Pinoy illegals drown in chase with Sabah cops

KUALA LUMPUR—Four people drowned when a boatload of illegal immigrants from the southern Philippines sank after being chased by Malaysian marine police, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

Police gave chase when a boat carrying at least 66 people fled early Monday in Malaysian waters off the northeastern tip of Borneo island, the New Straits Times said.

The police boat drew alongside the other vessel during the chase, and passengers began jumping onto the police boat "because they were scared," district police chief Idris Jikon was quoted as saying.

The boat escaped into shallow waters. A head count showed 62 passengers had jumped ship onto the police boat, Idris said.

When police returned after daybreak to where the boat was last seen, they found it had sunk. The bodies of four suspected illegal immigrants, one man and three women, were also found, the paper reported.

The illegal immigrants were believed to be from the Philippines island of Tawi-Tawi, part of the Mindanao province where the government is fighting against two separate militant Muslim groups.

One of the groups is holding about two dozen hostages on Basilan island near Tawi-Tawi, and is being chased by a massive military operation.

The hostage crisis has triggered an increase in pirate attacks and other lawlessness in the archipelago region, which separates the southern Philippines from Malaysia's Sabah state.

Up to 300,000 Filipinos live legally in Sabah and thousands more each year make the short crossing to enter Malaysia illegally looking for work.

Malaysian authorities have stepped up patrols along borders with its poorer neighbors Indonesia and the Philippines to cope with what they say is an influx of illegal immigrants caused by economic and social unrest at home. *AP*

8 stories make it as finalists of Ongpin Awards

EIGHT stories published last year have been chosen as finalists for the Jaime V. Ongping Awards for Investigative Journalism (JVOAIJ).

The list was released by the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR), which has been administering the awards for the last 12 years.

The first awards were given in 1989 to honor the late Jaime V. Ongpin, who was Secretary of Finance during the Aquino administration. A press freedom advocate, Ongpin was involved in the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship and was instrumental in harnessing public support for the restoration of democracy in the Philippines.

The finalists for this year's awards are:

- "PNB Privatization: How Lucio Tan Saw Opportunity in Crisis" by the BusinessWorld Banking and Finance Group (Dymphna R. Calica, Salve I. Duplito, Leilani M. Gallardo, Daxim L. Lucas, Reena J. Villamor and Cecille E. Yap), BusinessWorld, published June 5-10, 2000.
- "The State of the President's Finances: Can Estrada Explain his Wealth?" by Yvonne T. Chua, Sheila S. Coronel and Vinia M. Datinguinoo, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, published in BusinessWorld, Cebu Daily News, Sun. Star Cebu, Sun.Star Manila and The Freeman on July 24-25, 2000; Philippine Collegian on Aug. 1, 2000; Pinoy Times on July 24-27, 2000; The Philippine Post on July 25-26, 2000 and Today on Aug. 14, 2000.
- "Erap and Families" by Sheila S. Coronel, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, published in I magazine July-September 2000.
- "The Estradas' Three Dozen Houses: First Family's Firm Flouts the Law" by Maria Lourdes C. Mangahas and Luz Rimban, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, published in BusinessWorld and The Philippine Star on Aug. 21-22, 2000; Philippine Collegian on Aug. 21 and 31, 2000 and Pinoy Times on Aug. 21-24, 2000.
- "Baguio Forest Cut Down to Build 'Cronyville'" by Luz Rimban and Mike Leonen, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, published in BusinessWorld and Cebu Daily News on Nov. 21, 2000; Pinoy Times on Nov. 22-24, 2000; Sun. Star Cebu on Nov. 23, 2000 and The Philippine Star on November 21-22, 2000.
- "Corruption and Waste Weigh Down Agriculture" by Prime Sarmiento, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, published in BusinessWorld and Malaya on Jan. 24-25, 2000.
- "Stories of Money Lost Wincorp Case Exposes Flaws in Government Rules" by Elena R. Torrijos, Philippine Daily Inquirer, published on May 22-24, 2000.
- "Cronies Scramble to Get Clark Casino for Estrada" by Marites Dañguilan-Vitug and Glenda Gloria, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, published in BusinessWorld, Cebu Daily News, Sun.Star Cebu, The Freeman, The Philippine Star and Today on Dec. 20-21, 2000.

The best three investigative reports will be announced during a ceremony on June 28, at the J.V. del Rosario Room at the AIM Conference Center Manila (Benavidez corner Trasierra streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City). The awarding ceremonies will be at 11:30 a.m. following the Jaime V. Ongpin Seminar on Investigative Journalism, to which journalism students and teachers are invited.

The Jaime V. Ongpin Institute for Business and Government (JVOIBG) sponsors the annual competition to encourage relevant and responsible journalism.

Finalists receive a plague and a P5,000 cash prize. Plaques and cash awards of P50,000, P25,000 and P12,500 await the first, second and third prize winners, respectively.

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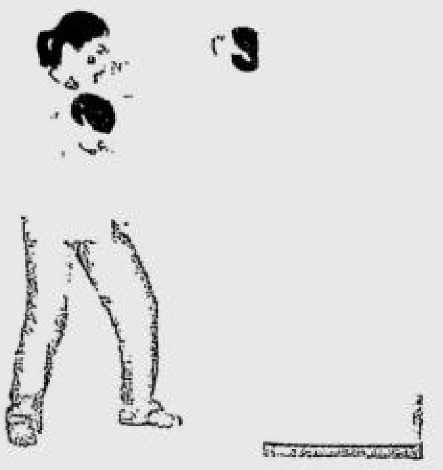

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OPINION

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Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 192
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at **Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines •** Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-46, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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Winner, loser

EDITORIAL

ORMOC City Mayor Eufrocino Codilla Sr. won the biggest number of votes but lost the May 14 elections. The official tally showed Codilla, the candidate of the administration's People Power Coalition, garnering a total of 71,350 votes in the congressional race in Leyte's fourth district compared to 53,447 votes cast for reelectionist Rep. Victoria Locsin of the Nationalist People's Coalition. With a wide margin of 18,903 votes, Codilla's victory should have been incontestable. But it was contested and it was Locsin who got proclaimed as the winner by the provincial board of canvassers.

How did the winner lose and the loser win this electoral contest? Simple: There was no contest, because Codilla should not have been in it in the first place, according to the Commission on Elections' Second Division.

As early as April, Codilla was charged before the Comelec with violations of the Omnibus Election Code. Josephine de la Cruz, a resident of Kananga, Leyte, asked the Comelec to disqualify Codilla as a congressional candidate, saying he had used government vehicles to haul sand and gravel to some barangays in an attempt to win votes there.

The Second Division agreed with the complainant that such act constituted an "indirect solicitation of votes," a serious offense under the election law. So it invalidated Codilla's candidacy and ordered the board of canvassers to consider all votes cast for him "stray and invalid."

In an electoral exercise which will always be remembered for highlighting the Comelec's gross incompetence in preparing for and supervising the polls, that decision should come as a rare piece of good news. Finally, it seems, some election officials have summoned the will to enforce the law.

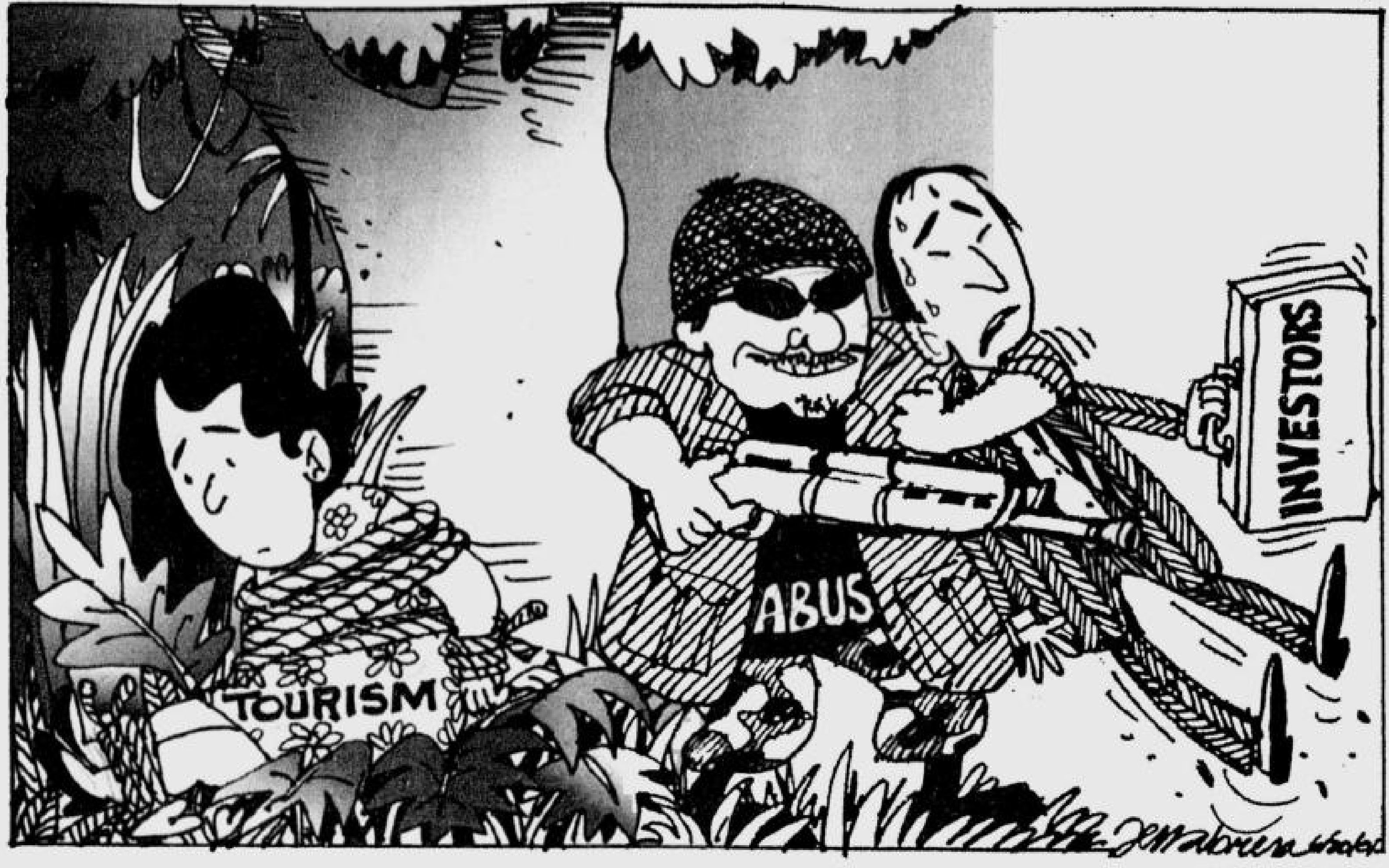
But then some things don't quite add up to a fair application of the law here.

First, why did it take the Second Division all this time to decide against Codilla? The decision was handed down on Friday, June 15, a month after the votes were cast and a few weeks after they were counted. Couldn't the electoral body have decided the disqualification case before the elections so that the people of the district would not have been deprived of the opportunity to choose between at least two candidates?

Second, Locsin herself faces a disqualification for vote buying and terrorism. Both allegations are as serious as the charges for which Codilla was disqualified. Why did the board of canvassers proclaim Locsin before the latter's case was decided?

It is certainly welcome to hear the Comelec enforcing the law, especially the provision against illegal solicitation of votes. This provision of the election law is one of the most often violated. Very rare is the winner who can honestly claim that he did not buy votes directly or indirectly. And this is especially true in provinces like Leyte where running for public office is considered a good investment and candidates talk openly about how much they paid for every vote they got. The computation is straightforward: You spend the equivalent of one year's income for your election, and you come out on top since you will be holding office for three years. But of course if you're running for congressman, governor or mayor, you spend much more since the returns are much bigger, with all the kickbacks from projects and payoffs for permits and illegal operations like *jueteng* or logging.

Vote buying and other forms of illegal vote solicitation do not only turn elections into a farce, they also constitute the biggest cause of graft and corruption in government. Any attempt to reform the electoral process and minimize graft and corruption should therefore be anchored on eliminating these practices. But this cannot be done by cracking down on a single violator while letting scores of others get away.



What we need is less, not more, legislators

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LAST Sunday was Father's Day and weeks before that was Mother's Day. But why is there no Grandfather's Day and Grandmother's Day or even a combined Lolo and Lola's Day? The reason is that *lolos* and *lolas* are also fathers and mothers of the parents of their grandchildren and so Father's Day and Mother's Day are also their day. But I think grandparents deserve a day of their own. And that grandchildren should also have a day of their own which would be different from Christmas because it would be exclusively for the *apos*. There are no more doting elders than the grandparents are to their grandchildren. The latter, in return, always have fond memories of their grandparents. Many children of working parents were reared by their grandparents who, because they no longer have to work for a living, have all the time to spoil their little grandchildren. They deserve a day each for themselves to mark this special relationship.

Besides, think of what it will do to commerce and the economy. Stores would be able to sell more gifts and greetings cards. Restaurants will serve more meals on these special days as families decide to eat out to celebrate. Father's Day and Mother's Day and Valentine's Day were invented to boost commerce. So why not go the whole hog and invent Grandpa's Day, Grandma's Day, and Grandchildren's Day, too, and make money circulate and improve the economy? And make many people happy.

* * *

Sen. John Osmeña has reportedly started to campaign in earnest to amend the Constitution to change the election of senators from national to regional. Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has earlier said he favored electing senators by region. Now comes Sen. Edgardo Angara voicing the same preference. He goes on further: Senate representation, he said, should be by district.

"The 24-member Senate is no longer representative of the population which is now 77 million," Angara said.

Here we go again, politicians are again using the people as an excuse to perpetuate themselves. More people, more senators to represent them, they say. The districts and the regions should be equally represented. At present, more senators are elected from Luzon than from the Visayas and Mindanao. Good arguments—at first glance.

But to repeat what I said in an earlier column, (PDI, 6/18/01) electing senators by district or by region would just be duplicating the House of Representatives. And that's a terrible thought.

Congressmen supposedly represent the people of their districts but have they contributed to better legislation? The Power Reform Bill is a case in point, which was railroaded through Congress. The congressmen were supposed to protect the welfare of their constituents who would be adversely affected by the bill, but they railroaded the bill through nevertheless.

Did the congressmen contribute to better government? Of course not. Instead, they contributed to the ballooning budget deficit as the people have to pay more and more for their expenses, as their pork barrel allocations continue to get bigger.

To repeat, since when did congressmen work for the welfare of their constituents? They work for their own welfare but not for the people they are supposed to represent. Senators elected by district or by region would be as bad as the House.

Osmeña is from Cebu, Pimentel is from Mindanao, so you must understand that their proposal has nothing to do with the people at all but with themselves. Senators elected by region would give them better chances of getting elected, that's all there is to it.

The framers of our original Constitution made senators elected nationally precisely to balance the parochial House of Representatives. The congressmen represented their districts, the senators represented the whole nation. The congressmen saw to the local interests; the senators were supposed to see the bigger picture. Their constituency is the whole nation. They were supposed to be better and more mature than the congressmen. That is why the Senate is called the "Upper House" and the House of Representatives the "Lower House."

So more senators from Luzon are elected. But they do not represent only Luzon; they represent the whole nation. And they were elected because they were better. Most of our outstanding senators came from Luzon—Claro M. Recto, Jose P. Laurel, Lorenzo Tañada, Jose W. Diokno, Juan and Lorenzo Sumulong, Camilo Osias, Benigno Aquino Jr.—what's wrong with that? Had the senatorial elections been by region, we would have been denied the services of some of them.

Electing senators by region would only increase the number of senators, who would be a great burden to the taxpayers but would not improve lawmaking at all. In the House, we now have the party-list representatives, some of whom come from the established political parties which already have their regular representatives in Congress.

What we need is not more but less legislators. What we need is not more but less laws. We already have so many laws that many are not implemented nor enforced. Even lawyers don't know all the laws that have been passed. And we spend a big part of the budget to support a bloated Congress that is like an albatross around the nation's neck. Or a yoke on the neck of a beast of burden—the taxpayer.

More education

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THERE'S another thing we can do to educate the public in good government. It has to do with the seemingly humdrum thing known as the national budget.

Every year, when Congress opens and the national budget is debated, columnists, civic groups and NGOs routinely come up with complaints about the way it is allocated. Among the complaints is the sum uncompromisingly set aside for debt payments, debt payments continuing to be the No. 1 priority of government, in defiance of the Constitution. The Constitution mandates that education should be the top concern of government. That is not followed. "Automatic appropriation," a law that dates back to Marcos, makes it possible, indeed imperative, for Congress to automatically deduct a sum from the national budget that may not be touched come hell or high water.

Yet another—and more familiar—complaint concerns the sums that go to the Countryside Development Fund, also called the pork barrel funds. These are sums that are given to the various representatives to use in their constituencies as they deem fit. The representatives do not directly use the money but course it through the various departments—health, highways, education—depending on the needs of their provinces. In theory, that is good because representatives are in the best position to know what the places they are representing—that is why they are called representatives—need. In practice, that is bad because the pork barrel funds become a source of patronage and indeed, of corruption.

These complaints are valid. I do not buy the idea that being constructive consists only of suggesting what should be done and not of pointing out what shouldn't be done. Or indeed, that being constructive does not include criticizing or protesting things—they are merely being destructive. I do think it is the most constructive thing to protest iniquity. If we hadn't criticized or protested Marcos and Erap, we would not have produced the monumentally constructive things known as Edsa I and Edsa II. I do think it is the most constructive thing to protest that truly monstrous law called "automatic appropriation" and call for its repeal. I do think it is the most constructive thing to criticize that notorious practice known as pork barrel and call for its review.

But I've always wondered why we don't go beyond this. There **is** a way we can go farther than criticizing and protesting the way the budget is allocated. There **is** a way we can educate the public in the wise, or at least reasonable, uses of scant and precious resources. There **is** a way we can put pressure on Congress and the President to not pass a budget that is full of holes, also called "insertions."

That is by coming out with a national budget of our own.

I can't see how this cannot be done. In every major conference in the world today, we now see a "parallel conference" conducted by people who are protesting the agenda of that conference. That has been the case with the WTO, globalization, GATT and various environmental conferences. They have been dogged by alternative conferences, normally held a few weeks in advance. The one held in Seattle last year was particularly big, which ended up, as the world knows, in violent clashes between the protesters and Seattle police, who were defending the WTO representatives. But which bequeathed a new wave of activism that is now sweeping the campuses of America and elsewhere. Not all parallel conferences end up in bloody confrontations of course. But whether so or not, they do not just protest the agenda of the main conferences, they also show what the true agenda is, or should be. They do not just protest GATT, globalization, the WTO and current environmental policies, they show exactly what the alternatives to them are.

I do not see why we can't do the same thing for the national budget, if on a minor scale. I can't see why we can't go through the exercise of suggesting, debating and hammering out a budget that more clearly meets the needs of the people. If we were to scrap automatic appropriation, where do we put the money instead? If we were to abolish or drastically cut the Countryside Development Fund, where do we put the money instead? Which things do we prioritize, which things do we forego? How do we attack poverty, which has been crying out for a solution, and prevent the social volcano from exploding again?

Producing an alternative national budget should offer a far more scathing criticism of the one passed by Congress in haste after all sorts of midnight deals than criticism itself. It would say a lot more about the wastefulness of "automatic appropriation" and "pork barrel funds" than all the critiques put together. Doing something right is the most savage critique of doing something wrong.

Infinitely more importantly, it should bring the public at large, or indeed the *masa* itself—which brings us to the point about educating the *masa*—into the debate. The budget is by no means an easy subject matter, and talk does not naturally gravitate toward it in the office or the factory. And the way it is currently debated makes it an even bigger turnoff—which is probably what most of the representatives want to begin with. But make the alternatives graphic, show exactly what a pro-poor national budget can be, and the equation changes altogether. Show how a more reasonable allocation of scant and precious resources can support food production (with spectacular benefits for farmers and consumers), raise wages or at least improve the buying power of existing wages, and curb if not stop, public officials from stealing taxpayers' money, and the equation changes altogether. We have not lacked for fairly complex issues that have grabbed national attention after taking on vivid, dramatic, life-and-death aspects. The GATT and the US bases are two of them. We can do the same thing for the budget by producing one of our own.

I grant it is not easy. But I cannot see how it will lack for help from civil society and the corporate sector, the Church and the Left, overseas Filipino workers and housekeepers. It is just a question of organizing the effort. And the arduous nature of the exercise is not without salutary effect. It should be an education for those taking the effort themselves: It should give them an idea of what it takes to run government.

Who says only the *masa* should be educated?

Celebrity epidemic rolled back

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE MAY elections could well be the rollback of the epidemic that swept celebrities in the entertainment industry to elected political office.

Until the 1998 elections, when actor Joseph Estrada won the presidency, the capture of political office by celebrities seemed unstoppable—as unstoppable as Attila the Hun (the Scourge of God), the 14th-century Black Plague that ravaged Europe, or the AIDS epidemic.

The election of Estrada, despite his obvious shortcomings for the presidency, gave the celebrity epidemic an aura of invincibility. All we could do was to endure the scourge until it spent itself—as all pestilences had come to an end. The Black Plague at its height in 1347-1350 killed 25 million people in Europe, or one-fourth of its inhabitants before it was exhausted. Attila was driven from Gaul after his defeat in the Battle of Chalons (in the champagne region of France) in 453 at the hands of the Roman legions under Aetius and his Visigoth allies. Attila retreated to Italy where he knocked at the gates of Rome only to withdraw during a plague and died in his bed with his new bride in his camp.

At the height of Estrada's power, a mantle of invincibility wrapped cinema idols so much so that action star Fernando Poe Jr., was touted as Estrada's heir apparent. The May 14, 2001 elections, however, exploded the celebrities' myth of invincibility.

Many of the actors and actresses who rode the celebrity bandwagon in their bid to capture political office lost. The more prominent of the losers are Edu Manzano, Armida Siguion-Reyna, Philip Salvador, Ramon "Bong" Revilla, Rudy Fernandez and Nora Aunor. Manzano collided head-on with the à la Pendergrast machine of Jejomar Binay for mayor of Makati and was crushed. Fernandez took on the political veteran, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr., for mayor of Quezon City and was annihilated. The machine of veteran Luis Villafuerte flattened the challenge of Nora Aunor for governor of Camarines Sur. The good looks and even the political dynasty of Ramon "Bong" Revilla did not save him from defeat in the Cavite governor's election at the hands of Rep. Erineo Maliksi who was backed by the Remullas of Cavite and the money of Estrada.

There were, of course, survivors, like Vilma Santos who was reelected as mayor of Lipa City, Lito Lapid as governor of Pampanga and Joey Marquez as mayor of Parañaque.

The defeat of some of the stars may be attributed to a configuration of factors—among them, money, political alliances, achievements of incumbents and encounter with political machines. Their defeat goes to show that celebrity status is no longer a sufficient credential to win public office. Voters want from show-biz people more than just entertainers and impersonators of real life and if this were the case, then we might conclude that the Filipino voters have become more discerning in their choices than they were a few elections ago when they were overwhelmed by the celebrity epidemic.

It does not take very long for the voters to realize that not everyone with a handsome or pretty face or who pretends to love the poor can do justice to public service. The record of the Estrada presidency may have contributed to the electoral disenchantment with actors and actresses as a political category.

The topping by the ABS-CBN news anchor Noli de Castro—the media equivalent of El Shaddai's spellbinder Bro. Mike Velarde—of the senatorial elections, however, flies in the face of the decline of the electoral power of the show-biz people. Maybe De Castro won his votes because he is neither here nor there—i.e., voters were not sure whether he is an entertainer or a purveyor of information. The information that he broadcasts exercises his mandibles more than his brains. De Castro also immensely benefited from his daily exposure in ABS-CBN, a de facto political party without a license (registration) with the Commission on Elections.

ABS-CBN has served as a political vehicle of its politically ambitious surrogates. It is a more successful vehicle for political promotion than the political parties. The appropriation by ABS-CBN of the role of political party is a symptom of the moribund state of political parties in this country. This vacuum is being filled by de facto parties such as ABS-CBN, El Shaddai and the Iglesia ni Cristo. Although ABS-CBN has sponsored the electoral success of Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, she is not an archetypical media celebrity in that she has both good looks and good brains—a combination that may be hard to duplicate by her emulators in the media industry.

De Castro knew only too well the dead weight he had to carry if he identified with the Puwersa ng Masa, so he stood in the neuter zone—as "guest candidate" whose machine was really ABS-CBN. But his years of experience as a news reader—an occupation that demands nothing more than being a conduit of information passing from one ear to the other—cannot supply him with assets needed to be a good senator in a chamber that demands the rigorous exercise of the human mind.

It might help ABS-CBN if it reviews what its role in media is—whether it is the breeding ground of ignorant, if not arrogant, commentators who believe they are more powerful than the government and public officials or merely as a conduit of unvarnished information minus puerile commentaries, or as an illegitimate political party. One of the commentators once said the Battle of Waterloo was a battle in the American Civil War.

If you watch the TV talk/commentary shows, you will find that they are the arena where guests are being slaughtered and humiliated by interrogators who are more interested in reinforcing their opinions (before the fact) than in drawing out information. Officials and news sources have the right to turn down invitations for interviews under conditions of being victims of inquisition and mayhem.

Signals from the 'Agui' killing

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EVEN in death, former Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo continues to stir up controversy. In fact, he may even have accomplished in death what he failed to do in his lifetime. And that was at maximum no less than the crushing of the communist insurgency and movement in this country, or at the very least the permanent alienation of "the Left" from the mainstream of Philippine politics.

With Aguinaldo's assassination or execution, depending on where you stand vis-à-vis the ex-soldier and legislator's record and status, the negotiations between the government and the National Democratic Front have ground to a halt. The talks appeared extremely promising at the start, unfolding soon after People Power II when both the new Macapagal administration as well as the CPP/NDF leadership seemed particularly inclined to engage in meaningful and sincere negotiations. But in the aftermath of Aguinaldo's killing, the talks have been postponed indefinitely, with government negotiators flying home for "consultations."

NDF spokespersons have said that it is "hypocritical" for government negotiators to accuse the NDF of duplicity—shooting down "enemies" while talking peace—when government troops are themselves still engaged in armed pursuit of insurgents and no ceasefire has been declared or offered.

Government may in many ways accept "belligerency" as the state of its relations with the insurgents, in which the Aguinaldo shooting may be considered a deplorable but inevitable part of the conflict. But in my view, what may have provoked the GRP panel to leave the negotiations were the unrepentant, if not indeed gleeful, pronouncements of both Joma Sison, Jalandoni and even the local NDF leaders following Aguinaldo's death.

"Agui" may in fact have been the worst of the gang of torturers during martial law, and even as a congressman, he was not above using fear and intimidation to get his way (remember his role in the impeachment proceedings in the House?). But there are procedures and processes for bringing torturers and human rights violators to justice, even if the Philippine justice system has been notoriously slow to address their culpability.

By engaging in negotiations with the government, the communist rebels were saying they were ready to join the legal mainstream. But the government can't afford to be seen as playing along with the signal sent by the Aguinaldo shooting and the subsequent statements of Sison and company. And the signal is: With talks going on, it's now open season on the "enemies" of the people.

* * *

NO sooner has Pangasinan congressman-elect Joe de Venecia wound up his successful campaign for another term, that he has launched himself in yet another political battle. This of course is his bid to recapture the post of Speaker of the House of Representatives, from which if you remember, he launched his failed bid for president in '98.

From all indications, given the relatively "junior" status of the other contenders, the speakership is "in the bag" for De Venecia. And this time, he promises, "I will use the position to exercise statesmanship," swearing, despite the skepticism of his audience of media friends, that he has no other political goals in sight.

To be fair, De Venecia must be given credit for the relatively smooth passage of potentially divisive economic legislation that FVR used to push his economic restructuring program. Can he pave a similarly smooth road for President Macapagal's own legislative package? If anyone can do it, De Venecia can. The main criticism against De Venecia is that he smacks of too much *"trapo-ism."* Still, given the dynamics of the House, sometimes, being a *"trapo"* is a requirement of leadership in that body.

* * *

KNOW any woman achiever between the ages of 21 and 45, who has not only chalked up accomplishments in her career and personal life but has also contributed to the nation's development? If you do, then why not nominate her for this year's TOWNS awards?

TOWNS, for The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service, seeks to honor women achievers who could serve as inspiration for young women in search of role models, while encouraging the awardees themselves to "strive further and perhaps even double their efforts in making a difference." Given every three years, the TOWNS awards have so far honored 106 outstanding Filipinas from such diverse fields as government service, media and entertainment, the arts, the academe, business, social and community development, the sciences, medicine, law and other professions.

Mel Alonzo, president of the TOWNS Foundation, which oversees the national search, is particularly concerned about the need to identify women who may be doing outstanding work in their local communities but may not be receiving national attention. Nomination forms are available from the TOWNS Secretariat at the 20th floor, West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Building, Ortigas, Tel. Nos. 637-4261/62; the Museo Pambata Foundation Inc., Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila, Tel. Nos. 523-1797/98; or from any TOWNS awardee. Deadline for submission of nominations is July 31.

* * *

"SUPPOSE you could ask God the most puzzling questions about existence—love and faith, life and death, good and evil. Suppose God provided clear, understandable answers. It happened to Neale Donald Walsch. It can happen to you." So goes the tantalizing promo for "A Conversation…with Neale Donald Walsch."

Walsch is the author of the worldwide bestseller series "Conversations With God: 1, 2 and 3." In the Philippines alone, I'm told, more than 600,000 copies of his books have been sold, indicating a strong local following. But even if you haven't had a "conversation" with Walsch through any of his books yet, my friend Jim Paredes says time listening to Walsch reflect on matters of life and faith is time well spent.

Join Walsch this Saturday, June 23 at 6 p.m. at the Meralco Theater. Tickets are available at all Powerbooks branches or call 4265375/4263208/9290239/5313340/5330560. Presented by The Philippine Daily Inquirer. Sponsored by Unilab, National Bookstore, Dusit Hotel Nikko, City lite 88.3 and 103.5 K-Lite.

Risks in writing on Rizal

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

TWO weeks ago I accepted the invitation to give an informal talk on Jose Rizal at the Ateneo de Manila, not knowing till it was too late to back out, that the audience happened to be descendants of the national hero. Who am I to talk to them about their *lolo* Jose? Worse, I have an undeserved reputation, among constipated people with no sense of humor, of being an iconoclast who has made a lucrative career out of hero-bashing starting with Rizal, then Andres Bonifacio, then Emilio Aguinaldo.

In 1996, the centennial of Rizal's death, friends overheard conspiratorial whispers as I passed—"that's Ambeth Ocampo, did you know he said that Rizal was *bobo*?" Contrary to popular belief, Rizal was not the class valedictorian when he graduated from the Ateneo Municipal—yes, he graduated *sobresaliente* or excellent but there were eight other students with the same grade! Rizal himself admits he was envious of a talented classmate named Glicerio Anson who is lost to history. Anson did not become rich or famous, so why bother? How can this be saying Rizal was *bobo*? Comparing Rizal's grades at the Ateneo and the University of Santo Tomas, one notes a visible drop which has been blamed on the UST, racism, etc. Why can't we admit that Rizal was more interested in the arts than medicine? Just because Rizal was not a straight-A student in the UST does not mean he was *bobo*. Finally, while Rizal was a licensed physician—a doctor to us—he did not complete the requirements for his doctorate and never affixed the letters "M.D." after his name in calling cards. Not having the doctorate does not make him a *bobo* or any less of a hero.

While it is understandable to form Rizal and other heroes into an image and likeness we are comfortable with, I cannot understand why some people refuse to rethink their position in the face of current research. My so-called iconoclasm is simply reminding Filipinos that long before heroes became images of concrete and bronze, they were flesh and blood like you and me. Long before they became the stuff of legend, textbooks and holidays, they had once walked the earth as we do. Most of us forget heroes are human and the tragedy is not the death of a hero but the refusal of people to rethink this view because it is much simpler to deal with a static monument than a complex personality.

Last Sunday, the Ateneo School of Social Sciences, through its dean, Fr. Jose M. Cruz, S.J., hosted a Rizal family reunion that gathered close to a hundred descendants from Rizal's brother and sisters. Over the years I have come to know and love the so-called "elders" of this huge clan as I would my own *lolo* and *lola:* Asuncion Lopez Bantug and Carmen Consunji (grandchildren of Narcisa Rizal), Francisco Lopez and Eugenia Villaruz (grandchildren of Paciano and Narcisa Rizal), Fe Cruz-Donovan (granddaughter of Maria Rizal), and of course those who have moved on: Dr. Francisco Herbosa (grandson of Lucia Rizal), Angel Hidalgo (grandson of Saturnina Rizal), and Fr. Jose Cruz, S.J. (grandson of Maria Rizal). I exchanged the fruits of my research for family lore and I guess it is worth repeating here that I own any and all mistakes or controversies that arise from my writing.

On one visit to their home on Lopez-Rizal Street, Mandaluyong, I was met at the door by the late Antonio Bantug whispering, "*Amuhin mo ang lola mo, may tampo yata sa iyo* (Woo your *lola* she is upset with you.)." Over lunch Ms Bantug refused to speak to me, but relented over dessert, "Why did you say *lolo* Jose was *kuripot*?" I explained that I concluded so from the detailed list of expenses in his student diary. I was then given a lecture on the careful choice of words, there was a difference, she said, between being stingy (*kuripot*) and being thrifty (*matipid*). Naturally, I swallowed my pride, apologized and reread Rizal's diaries and letters. A week later, I still had the same conclusion, but I kept quiet about Rizal complaining in his diary about giving tips to security guards on Christmas Day! Then there was that revealing letter to his horrified family bragging that he had not taken a bath in weeks! Was this self-sacrifice or the refusal to pay the minimal fee for a bath?

In retrospect, I ask myself, is it safer to write about Rizal twice a year—on or around June 19 and Dec. 30—and concentrate on his heroism like everyone else? While there is a current and pressing need to learn values from Rizal, my being a historian and a journalist demands fresh angles for an old story. All 25 volumes of Rizal's writings do not change but our perspective does. Here lies the generation gap. A historian writing on Rizal 50 years ago writes from the temper of his times, I write from mine. History is not static, it challenges us by changing as we do. This may be why I find fulfillment rereading and researching Rizal for close to 20 years only to realize the task is endless. Understanding *lolo* Jose is not just about rediscovering the father of this nation, but learning about ourselves and realizing what it is to be and become Filipino.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Down memory lane

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

A WALK down memory lane can be a grateful revisiting of times past and of dear ones who have gone to the Lord. It can also be a nightmare, as we saw in three different events this past week. The killing of Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo brought back to light his record as a psychopathic torturer, and the whole grisly record of torture under the Marcos regime. Then there was the launching of the report, "Memory, Truth-telling, and the Pursuit of Justice: A Conference on the Legacies of the Marcos Dictatorship," together with the website "Never Again.net," which brings together a vast amount of material on the Marcos years in a form suitable for research. And now there is the account in former Sen. Jovito Salonga's new book, "A Journey of Struggle and Hope," of the 1971 Plaza Miranda bombing.

Aguinaldo's record as a torturer is documented in almost revolting detail by Alfred W. McCoy in his book "Closer than Brothers," together with the names and testimonies of some of his victims including Congressman-elect Satur Ocampo. "Agui's" torture sessions are described as "legendary," second only to those of Rolando Abadilla—although other familiar names come in for dishonorable mention: reelected Sen. Gregorio Honasan, Senator-elect Panfilo Lacson, RAM leaders Red Kapunan, Vic Batac and Billy Bibit. Perhaps significant, in view of Jose Maria Sison's gloating over Aguinaldo's death is the fact that it was Aguinaldo and his men who captured "Joma" in 1977.

McCoy's book also recounts Aguinaldo's transformation from torturer to provincial warlord and supporter of recurrent coup attempts. In Cagayan he "soon built an independent economic base of logging, smuggling and gambling, making him, in the words of the Davide Commission, the RAM leader 'who earned the most form illegal activities.'"

McCoy has a paper, "Dark Legacy: Human Rights Under the Marcos Regime" in the conference report noted above, which summarizes the findings on torture presented in his book. The conference and the report, as well as the website, are founded on the conviction that a people which chooses to forget its unpleasant past may well be destined to repeat it. Hence the awful truth must be told, repeated, enshrined in history books and archives and monuments—the truth about the plunder of the economy as well as about the suppression of the media and the prostitution of the arts, about subsequent efforts to "move on" without coming to terms with the reality, and about what this can do to the nation's values.

The accounts are presented in papers by experts and individuals who were involved in the events, people such as Maria Serena I. Diokno, Felipe B. Miranda, Alexander Padilla, Bishop Franciso F. Claver, Fermin Adriano, Bienvenido Lumbera, Luis V. Teodoro and Isagani Yambot, to mention only a few. Moreover, the summaries of discussions bring in a wealth of added information from others equally involved, Sr. Helen Graham and Bro. Karl Gaspar to name only two. Finally, the website provides a wealth of information, beyond that presented in the conference, which can be constantly supplemented and updated.

The third nightmare along memory lane activated in the past week has been former Senator Salonga's book and particularly its chapter on the bombing of Plaza Miranda, which draws on the research of the journalist Gregg R. Jones, "Red Revolution," supplemented by information from other sources. I knew Jones while he was doing his research and read a draft of his book before publication. I was much impressed by Jones' investigative techniques, by the access which he had to the guerrilla movement, including interviews with Sison and other current and past leaders of the movement, by the admiration which he expressed for the NPA fighters whom he met and who had guided and protected him, and by his obvious effort to present objectively and even sympathetically what he had learned.

I was also impressed by the report that some high-ranking party members in detention had read the draft, and one had remarked that he had learned much from it: Jones had been able to pin down and verify stories which had been floating as rumors without confirmation, in the movement.

Hence I am quite willing to accept Jones' detailed account of how Sison ordered the Plaza Miranda bombing, and indeed I would not be surprised if he were behind the killing of Aguinaldo. (Jones, after the publication of his book, told me that he had been warned that Sison had a contract out on him.)

Emerging then from these dark paths along memory lane, one is tempted to say of both Aguinaldo and Sison, "a plague on both your houses." Better, however, that the nation asks itself what the praise of Aguinaldo as a folk hero, and the election success of Honasan and Lacson are saying about our values, and whether there is any point in negotiating with a man like Sison.

THEY SAID

Recycled policy

"This is devoid of a deep understanding of the Moro problem. This is a recycled policy."

—Moner Bajunaid on the government's offer of amnesty to Moro Islamic Liberation Front members

Sugar-coated lies

"We must not fall for the sugar-coated lies the government says regarding the SSS privatization."

—Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño on the proposed privatization of the Social Security System

Values held

"We must demonstrate unequivocally that we value tolerance and moderation."

—Singaporean Minister of State for Manpower Othman Haron Eusofe's call on Singaporean Muslims to help stop creating an unfair and misleading image of Islam

No conditions.

"We have an open line of communication with them but when it comes to conditions, we cannot accept any conditions."

—National Security Adviser Roilo Golez on the government's policy concerning the Abu Sayyaf

No qualms

"If the Abu Sayyaf's claim is accurate, it only emphasizes the fact that it is a merciless, ruthless group that has no qualms at all in murdering an innocent person for the sake of ransom money."

—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on the alleged beheading of American hostage Guillermo Sobero

Fact of life

"Seniority is a fact of life in the Senate."

—Sen. Aquiliono Pimentel Jr. on the Senate presidency

Cross-purposes

"I find it frightfully ironic that while he is talking peace, his men are inflicting violence on poor peasants."

—Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales on Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza

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LETTERS

Where's justice for Alpap pilots?

THE PRINCIPAL obstacle in achieving justice in our country is the slow grinding of its wheels. And as time passes the public mood changes, the sense of urgency that attended the filing of a case dissipates and documents get lost or corrupted. Soon the cry for justice is replaced by misguided calls for healing. Soon the cry for justice is reduced to a whimper. But not if we can help it—certainly not if you help us.

After almost three years, the case of the Airline Pilots Association of the Philippines (Alpap) is still pending before the Court of Appeals (CA 54800). It has been due for resolution since April 3, 2000, more than a year ago. We believe it has been long enough and we call for a resolution now.

This we do even if court decisions themselves are ignored. Three other cases have already been resolved in their favor: NLRC-NCR 07-05400 (Aug. 25, 2000); NLRC-NCR 00-06-0629-99 (Dec. 11, 2000); and NLRC-NCR 00-06-06859-99 (March 5, 2001). The labor arbiter's judgment calls for immediate reinstatement of an illegally dismissed employee. This is executory and non-negotiable, all appeals notwithstanding.

But none of the pilots who won in these cases were reinstated regardless of the court order. Instead the Philippine Airlines continues to actively recruit and train new-hire pilots to fill up available positions—employment that rightfully belongs to Alpap members. This is a flagrant mockery of our courts. We sincerely pray that you help us put a stop to this.—**SOTICO T. LLOREN, president, Airline Pilots Association of the Philippines (Alpap), Andrews Avenue, Pasay City**

Long way to Camiling

ON ELECTION day I had to go home to Camiling, Tarlac, to see how my relatives who were running for public office were faring and to follow up some court cases.

As soon as the last toll exit at Mabalacat came into view, I asked myself why my entry into a small, crowded town should nullify the time I saved in negotiating an 80-kilometer freeway. As I took a roundabout S-figure turn that entailed using the overhead exit bridge, I asked myself, where was the usual shortcut that simply turned right directly toward the Magalang-Concepcion Road? As I approached Barangay Dolores, another thing puzzled me: I had to make a 90-degree left turn at the intersection right inside the barangay although there was a two-lane road constructed precisely to avoid it.

As I approached Concepcion, I was stuck in traffic because the unpaved portion of the road was muddied by recent rains and no one was directing the one-way traffic. Vehicles using the newly paved portion couldn't get off because of its thickness. Traffic started flowing again only when well-meaning barriofolk put rocks and stones on the road to enable vehicles to roll down from there. Farther, I was surprised to see a 4-km circuitous route that brought one right into the heart (marketplace) of Concepcion just to avoid a one-km road that was under repair!

I reached Camiling but not without negotiating the relatively new access road to Western Pangasinan that goes (of all places) again right into the heart (church) of Tarlac City!

And what is this talk of a new expressway hitting a snag because it will run through, among others, a golf course?

On my way back to Manila, I realized that I missed a small, inconspicuous sign posted at the Mabalacat toll exit informing travelers that the Magalang-Concepcion road was under repair but not of the extent thereof or that it entailed taking a relatively long diversion through Concepcion.

Could it be that the chaos, illogic and lack of coordination prevailing in this portion of our highway system are a microcosm of what is happening relative to our efforts toward national development?—**DANIEL B. VALDEZ, 35 Ipil, Mahogany Homes, Taguig, Metro Manila**

Names were used in vain

I HAVE always been an admirer of Sen. Jovito Salonga and a friend as well as a grade school and high school classmate of his son Steve. But I must take exception to his use of Ruben Guevara's testimony that "on the afternoon of the Plaza Miranda bombing, in the rented apartment of spouses Magtanggol (sic) Roque and Mila Aguilar in BF Homes in Parañaque, he saw Joma Sison with three young men…"

Neither I nor my late husband, Magtangol Roque Sr., ever rented an apartment in BF Homes Parañaque, certainly not in the period before or after the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus or even in the period before or after the imposition of martial law. If the senator or his son, or even Ariel Almendral, who was also my grade school and high school classmate and, like Steve, continues to maintain contact with me, had bothered to check this one fact with me, there would have been no need to drag the names of a dead man and his widow in the allegations regarding the Plaza Miranda bombing. What are the names there for—to lend legitimacy to the testimony? The alleged venue now being questionable, do we continue to believe in the allegation?—**MILA D. AGUILAR, mda@info.com.ph**

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Is compromise on coco funds being cooked?

IS a compromise deal between the Macapagal administration and Danding Cojuangco the reason why Malacañang is dilly-dallying on the coconut levy issue? President Macapagal has not acted decisively on the matter and her silence is deafening. Worse, the signals coming from Malacañang are mixed: it either favors the small coconut farmers or it is on its way to a compromise deal. What should the small farmers expect from this government when the principles of transparency and accountability are not being upheld?

The administration's first 100 days have come and gone. But there are still no concrete policies or decisive action from the administration that will address the current slump in copra prices. Kilos-Saka and the Multi-Sectoral Task Force on the Coco Levy Recovery, among others, have formulated and submitted project proposals, as well as drafted countless versions of executive orders to the President for poverty alleviation among small coconut farmers and the development of the coconut industry. However, it seems that the administration has no interest in acting on these proposals.

The epidemic of low copra prices has been on for a year now and there are about two million small coconut farmers in the country affected by the slump. In some areas, in fact, farmgate prices have dropped to as low as P2 per kilo, making it unprofitable to harvest coconuts since processing costs are higher than what they would make selling their copra. Thus, some farmers are forced to cut down trees for sale as timber to augment their meager income.

Why is it taking this administration so long to decide whether or not to pursue a poverty alleviation program for the small coconut farmers? What will it take for this government to take action? Are empty pronouncements and half-baked measures all we can expect from this administration?

If the government continues on its no-action policy, the small coconut farmers will think that the Macapagal administration is insensitive to their plight and is just waiting for them to look the other way before it stabs them in the back with a compromise agreement with Cojuangco. When this happens, where can they turn to for help?—**ROMEO ROYANDOYAN, executive director, Philippine Peasant Institute; JOEY FAUSTINO, executive director, Coconut Industry Reform Movement, members of Kilos-Saka (Alyansa ng mga Kilusang Magsasaka) c/o Philippine Peasant Institute, Rm. 319 PSSC Bldg., Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

Meaningful changes in first 100 days

A NEWLY elected municipal mayor can make a difference within his first 100 days in office by simply having all the toilets of the municipal hall cleaned and maintained like those in five-star hotels, seeing to it that frontline employees do not only smile at every client but also usher him to the proper action officer, and ensuring that every client's request for a simple service is given in less than an hour.

If all newly elected municipal mayors can do this, then Philippine municipal governance can become world-class; otherwise every municipal hall remains a pigsty led by the pigheaded.—**T. B. ABAYAN, 13-A Banning St., North Fairview, Quezon City**

Retirees' apprehensions

IN YOUR Wednesday, June 6, 2001 issue, I would like to quote an excerpt from the article of Christine Avendaño titled "Senate set to OK P11B extra budget" which said: "Boncodin said the government would have to sacrifice other expenditures, like the pension of government retirees, in order to cover the additional P3.8 billion needed so that government employees will receive the pay increase retroactive on Jan. 1."

I would like to emphasize that these retirees have contributed from their monthly salaries to the Government Service Insurance System the amount needed for their pension. In our case now, the first P14,000 of our gross monthly compensation is subject to 9 percent and the amount in excess of that is at 2 percent. So, the proverbial phrase of "setting aside for the rainy days" is forcibly used on us by the GSIS which gives only a dismal P14,000 maximum monthly pension for retirees. What happened to the contributions then?—**SHIRLEY P. BAGAYAS, Batinguel, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental**

A PALESTINIAN flag flies as 9-year-old Ali Abu Shawish, who was killed by Israeli troops during clashes with stone throwers in Khan Younis refugee camp, is carried during his funeral in the Gaza Strip June 18. REUTERS

Violence dims prospects of Middle East ceasefire

JERUSALEM—Numerous outbreaks of gunfire dimmed prospects for a US-sponsored truce, while Israeli and Palestinian security commanders traded charges about noncompliance.

Two Israeli settlers and a Palestinian youth died Monday as violent incidents increased markedly. A meeting of security commanders, meant to discuss implementations of the truce, negotiated last week by CIA director George Tenet, degenerated into mutual recriminations.

In Gaza, a 16-year-old Palestinian wounded in a Sunday clash died in a Khan Younis hospital, doctors said. He was to be buried Tuesday.

The Israeli military reported more than a dozen cases of Palestinians opening fire on Israeli civilians and Army positions in the West Bank and Gaza.

After nightfall Monday, a witness said a Palestinian on a hilltop fired at several vehicles entering the settlement of Einav, near the West Bank town of Tulkarem. Bullets hit a car, killing Doron Zisserman, 28.

In response, Israeli forces reimposed a blockade around Tulkarem. The roadblocks had been lifted only a day earlier as part of the ceasefire deal.

At the security meeting, the two sides charged each other with ceasefire violations. Palestinian security commander Jibril Rajoub said no new ground was broken, but another meeting was set for today.

On Monday morning, a Palestinian taxi turned around on a West Bank road near Nablus, caught up with an Israeli vehicle, and gunmen in the taxi opened fire, killing Danny Yehuda, 35. His funeral procession stopped in front of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office in Jerusalem, a protest against his policy of refraining from retaliation against the Palestinians.

A faction of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction claimed responsibility for the shooting.

Though he was critical of the Palestinians, Sharon fended off calls from his own nationalist camp to hit back militarily for the attacks.

"I am not willing to accept calls . saying I have to take this nation to war," Sharon said, aiming his remarks at settlers, who have been on the front lines of the fighting and have held signs reading "War now" at demonstrations.

The truce gives the two sides a week to carry out their basic commitments before the cooling-off period goes into effect.

But Sharon said Monday, "As long as there is no total ceasefire, the counting of the cooling-off period will not begin."

In a meeting with US Jewish leaders, Sharon said, "Pressure must be put on Arafat to bring about a total cessation of violence, terror and incitement and implementation of his commitments," according to a statement from Sharon's office. *AP*

US spurns N. Korea compensation demand

WASHINGTON—The State Department rejected on Monday a North Korean demand for compensation to offset what Pyongyang claims are huge economic losses resulting from a delay in the completion of two light water reactors planned under a 1994 agreement.

"We don't see any particular basis for compensation," spokesperson Richard Boucher said.

North Korea made the demand in its first response to President George W. Bush's proposal two weeks ago that bilateral talks resume for the first time since last fall.

The response was offered by an unidentified North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson in a radio broadcast monitored in Seoul. His comments made clear that two sides are far apart on both procedural and substantive issues.

Bush wants discussions on the large North Korean troop presence near the South Korean border but the North Korean said talks should focus on the alleged US failure to keep its end of a 1994 agreement under which the North froze its suspected nuclear weapons program.

The agreement requires a US-led international consortium to provide North Korea with two power-generating light-water nuclear reactors by 2003. However, the $4.6 billion project has been delayed by financing and political tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Claiming that the delay is causing it a huge electricity loss, North Korea demanded compensation.

"The electricity loss from the delay in building light-water reactors should be taken up as a priority agenda in the talks," the spokesperson said. The administration insists 2003 was a target date, not a contractual date. In addition, officials say there is no contractual provision for the extra compensation demanded by Pyongyang.

"We have met and will continue to meet our obligations," Boucher said.

The North Korean spokesperson also complained that Washington unilaterally set the agenda despite saying the proposed talks have no conditions attached.

"We cannot but evaluate the US proposal as unilateral and conditional in its nature and hostile in its intentions," the spokesperson said. "The US-proposed agenda concerns our nuclear, missile and conventional armaments and this all is nothing but an attempt to disarm us."

The spokesperson said any reduction or re-redeployment of North Korea's 1.1-million-member military cannot be discussed before the United States withdraws its 37,000-member military presence in South Korea. *AP*

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Putin: Russia will counter US nuke shield

WASHINGTON—Russian President Vladimir Putin told the US press late Monday that Russia would boost its own nuclear forces if the United States went ahead with its planned nuclear missile shield, perhaps sparking a nuclear arms race.

"We will reinforce our capability, mounting multiple warheads on our missiles," Putin said in an interview at the Kremlin with US news organizations including The Washington Post and The New York Times.

Putin, who met US President George W. Bush in Slovenia Saturday, said through an interpreter that adding multiple warheads would "cost only a meager sum of money" but that "the nuclear arsenal of Russia will be augmented multifold."

He suggested, however, he would be open to revising, though not abandoning, the 1972 Anti Ballistic Treaty (ABM) between Moscow and Washington, which Bush considers obsolete and wants to scrap.

The controversial US idea for a new defense system to shoot down incoming missiles has been regarded with deep suspicion in Russia and other European countries, which say it would upset the existing nuclear balance and encourage the proliferation of atomic weapons.

Responding to comments Sunday by Bush's National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice that the United States would proceed with missile defense with or without Russia, Putin said: "We cannot force anyone to cooperate with us, nor will we try to.

"We have offered to work together. If that is not needed, fine. We are ready to act on our own," the Post quoted Putin as saying.

The New York Times cited Putin as saying that because of its experimental nature, the US missile shield not cause serious national security concerns to Russia for at least 25 years.

"It's like a bullet hitting a bullet. Is it possible today or not? Today experts say that it is impossible to achieve this . . . And the experience of real tests demonstrates that today it is impossible," Putin said in the Post.

Putin said he had briefed Chinese President Jiang Zemin by telephone on Monday on his meeting with Bush, saying he had urged the US to adopt a cooperative approach to examining international threats.

Beijing feared the proposed US missile shield could nullify its national nuclear deterrent, he added.

"One must be very careful here," Putin said in the Times. "The transparency of our action is very important, lest none of the nuclear powers would feel abandoned or that two countries are making agreements behind their backs."

Putin said he was personally concerned a unilateral US, missile defense could "result in a hectic, uncontrolled arms race on the borders of our country and neighboring countries." *AFP*

Japanese woman slashes kindergarten teacher

TOKYO—Less than two weeks after a man stormed an elementary school and stabbed eight children to death, a woman with a kitchen knife forced her way into a Tokyo kindergarten yesterday and slashed a teacher before fleeing.

The teacher, a 23-year-old woman, was slashed on her hands and leg before the attacker fled, according to a police spokesperson. The teacher was taken to the hospital, but her injuries were minor.

The school was not yet open for the day, and there were no children near the school's back gate, where the early morning attack occurred. Police said the attacker was believed to be a middle-aged woman, and confirmed that she was carrying a kitchen knife.

Reports said she may also have had attacked the teacher with a stick.

No other details were available, and the motive of the attacker was unknown. She was still at large several hours after the attack.

The kindergarten, attended by about 200 children, was closed after the incident and arriving children were sent home, said school official Naoko Ezawa.

The slashing comes amid heightened concern over the safety of Japan's schools following the slaughter of the eight first- and second-grade children at a prestigious elementary school in a suburb of Osaka, in western Japan, less than two weeks ago.

That attack shocked Japan and prompted calls from Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and others for increased school security. Because the attacker, Mamoru Takuma, had a history of psychological treatment, it has also fueled a debate over the handling of suspects believed to be mentally unstable.

Takuma, 37, was accused in 1999 of slipping tranquilizers into the tea of four teachers at the school where he worked as a janitor. Diagnosed as a schizophrenic, he was never charged and was sent to a mental hospital, which later released him.

Koizumi and his Cabinet agreed last week on the need for tighter security at the nation's schools, and the Education Ministry has instructed all elementary, middle and high schools to re-evaluate campus security.

Many have begun posting guards, or closing their gates during the day. *AP*

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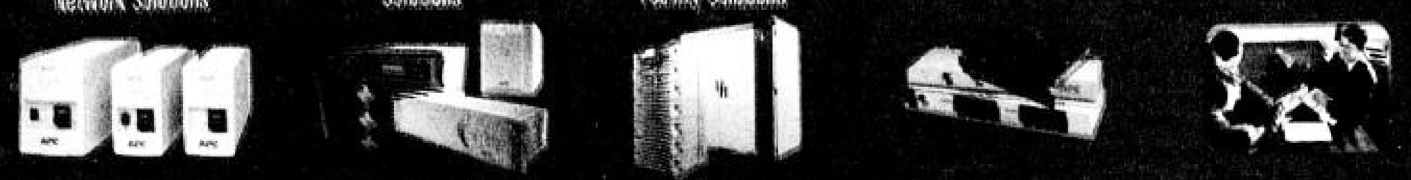

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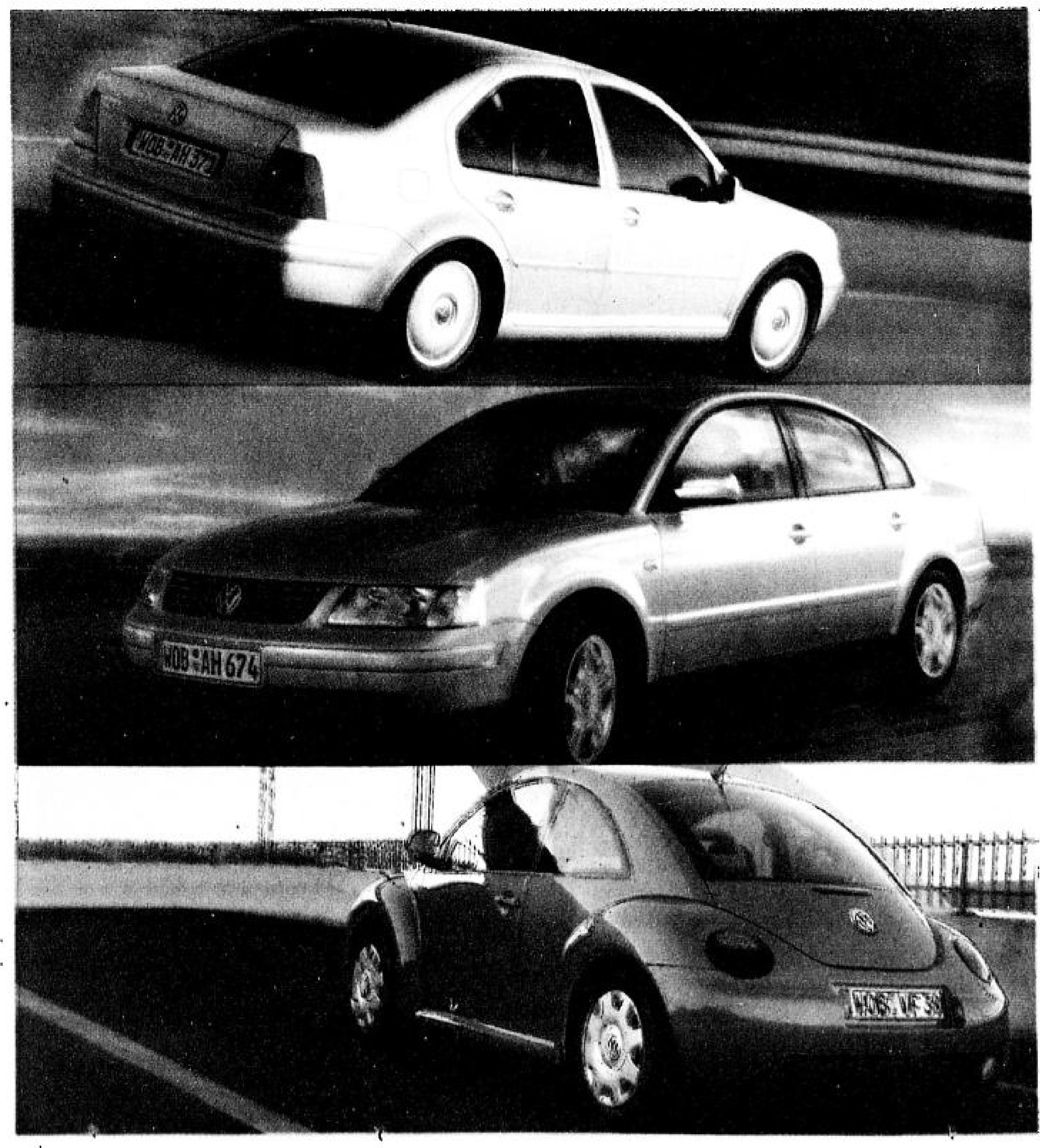

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1586 Series of 2001

Half of 6,800 languages in the world could vanish

WASHINGTON—Ever hear someone speak Udihe, Eyak or Arikapu?

Odds are you never will. Among the world's 6,800 languages, half to 90 percent could be extinct by the end of the century.

One reason is that half of all languages are spoken by fewer than 2,500 people each, according to the Worldwatch Institute, a private organization that monitors global trends.

Languages need at least 100,000 speakers to pass from generation to generation, says Unesco.

War and genocide, fatal natural disasters, the adoption of more dominant languages such as Chinese and Russian, and government bans on language also contribute to their demise.

"In some ways it's similar to what threatens species," said Payal Sampat, a Worldwatch researcher who wrote about the topic for the institute's May-June magazine.

The outlook for Udihe, Eyak and Arikapu—spoken in Siberia, Alaska and the Amazon jungle, respectively—is particularly bleak.

About 100 people speak Udihe, six speak Arikapu, and Eyak is down to one, Worldwatch says. Marie Smith, 83, of Anchorage, Alaska, says she's the last speaker of Eyak, a claim verified by linguists.

She doesn't like the distinction.

"It's horrible to be alone," Smith said in an interview Monday.

It's becoming a struggle, too, to find many who can say "thank you" in the Navajo language of the American Indian tribe (ahehee), "hello" in the Maori language of New Zealand (kia ora), or rattle off the proud Cornish saying: "Me na vyn cows Sawsnak!" (I will not speak English!).

The losses ripple far beyond the affected communities. When a language dies, linguists, anthropologists and others lose rich sources of material for their work documenting a people's history, finding out what they knew and tracking their movements from region to region.

And the world, linguistically speaking, becomes less diverse.

In January, a catastrophic earthquake in western India killed an estimated 30,000 speakers of Kutchi, leaving about 770,000.

Manx, from the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea, disappeared in 1974 with the death of its last speaker. In 1992, a Turkish farmer's passing marked the end of Ubykh, a language from the Caucasus region with the most consonants on record, 81.

Eight countries account for more than half of all languages. They are, in order, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Nigeria, India, Mexico, Cameroon, Australia and Brazil.

That languages die isn't new; thousands are believed to have disappeared already.

"The distinguishing thing is it's happening at such an alarming rate right now," said Megan Crowhurst, chair of the Linguistic Society of America's endangered languages committee.

Linguists believe 3,400 to 6,120 languages could become extinct by 2100, a statistic grimmer than the widely used estimate of about one language death every two weeks. *AP*

US Navy again dropping bombs on Vieques

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico—As dummy bombs fell again on Vieques island, the US Navy and its opponents waged a battle of perception amid the war games: Protesters insisted dozens of activists have invaded the US Navy firing range and the Navy said no one was in harm's way.

Protest leader Ismael Guadalupe said about 30 people, including his 25-year-old son, remained on the range during Monday's training.

"They are there to serve as human shields to try and stop the bombing," he said, charging the exercises pose "a threat to human life."

But Navy spokesperson Lt. Cmdr. Katherine Goode said security patrols had found no protesters on the range.

"If anyone is hiding really well, we hope they will come out and identify themselves so we can get them out of there," she said.

At least 17 protesters arrested for trespassing Monday all were on land surrounding the range, the Navy said.

Such tactics are part of a "civil disobedience" campaign that began after a civilian security guard on the range was killed by off-target bombs dropped by a Marine jet practicing in April 1999 for the bombing of Kosovo.

The issue united all political groups in this Spanish-speaking US Caribbean territory behind charges that the bombing harms islanders environment and health.

The Navy denies that and says local studies that show Vieques residents suffer a higher incidence of cancer and other ills are unscientific.

On Monday, Navy fighter jets roared over the Puerto Rican island and dropped 11-kg inert bombs in the first day of what could be one of the last exercises here.

US President George W. Bush announced last week that the Navy would withdraw from Vieques in two years and must start looking for an alternative to the island that the Navy says provides lifesaving training in an era of precision-bombing. The range has been used in every major conflict from World War II to the Gulf War.

But protesters are sticking to their slogan "No una bomba mas!"—Not one more bomb!—and demanding an immediate withdrawal. *AP*

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Iraq managed to build nuke weapons despite sanctions, reports say

UNITED NATIONS—Iraq evaded UN sanctions in the 1990s, importing military equipment to build missiles and nuclear weapons from companies in Eastern Europe and Russia, according to unpublished UN weapons inspection reports obtained by arms control researchers.

The American researchers conclude that Saddam Hussein's purchases are likely to intensify as the enforcement of sanctions wanes and Iraq's revenue from illegally smuggled oil grows.

The findings by Gary Milhollin, director of the Washington-based Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, a nonprofit watchdog group, and researcher Kelly Motz, are being published in the July-August issue of Commentary magazine as the UN Security Council debates a US-British proposal to toughen enforcement of a decade-old arms embargo on Iraq.

"The new proposal—whether adopted by the UN or not—has little hope of stopping the Iraqis from sneaking in what they need to rebuild their weapons sites and sneaking out the oil to pay for it," they wrote in the article, made available Monday. "Even when the UN inspection regime was in place, the Iraqis had already figured out how to do just that."

A British diplomat disagreed. "The new resolution will set in place arrangements to monitor the flow of goods into Iraq and to crack down on illegal oil smuggling. So it's not right to claim that it will make no difference," the diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity. There were no immediate comments from US officials on the report.

The Security Council imposed sanctions on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The sanctions cannot be lifted until UN weapons inspectors certify that the country's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs have been dismantled along with its long-range missile program.

But inspectors with the UN Special Commission, known as UNSCOM, left Iraq after seven years in December 1998 ahead of US and British missile strikes launched to punish the country for not cooperating with inspectors. For the last two and a half years, the Iraqi government has barred the inspectors from returning, demanding instead that sanctions be lifted immediately. *AP*

HK workers seen as among Asia's most disgruntled

HONG KONG—Hong Kong workers are among Asia's most disgruntled with nearly a third of them feeling no obligation to stay with their employers, a report showed yesterday.

Research for the Asian Employee Relationship report conducted by Asia Market Intelligence (AMI) showed that nearly a third of Hong Kong workers would not hesitate in throwing in the towel on their current jobs—the highest figure among nine Asian markets, comprising China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.

Twenty-six percent of Hong Kong workers feel no strong personal attachment to their companies and nearly a third of them are unlikely to recommend their companies as good places to work, AMI's second annual survey found.

The report showed that Hong Kong, Malaysia and Indonesia were vying for the title of most discontented workforce while Thailand and the Philippines were generally upbeat.

Matching similar statistics last year, the AMI survey revealed that nearly one quarter of Asian workers are not committed to their employers and intend to change jobs in the next two years.

Findings also showed that employee commitment in Asia is the highest in the Taiwan and South Korea, where half of the work force are considered "truly loyal" to their employers.

The fewest loyal employees are to be found in Hong Kong and Indonesia, the research firm said.

"Hong Kong workers appear equally jaded about their employers' concern for their personal welfare and career development," it said, citing 35 percent seem to think there are zero career advancement prospects mainly because it is in their organizations' interests to keep staff where they are.

This figure has increased from 28 percent feeling the same way last year. *AFP*

INSTITUTE OF INTEGRATED ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS OF THE PHILIPPINES, INCORPORATED

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Theme - "IIEE: Onwards to Face the Challenges of New Technology & Globalization"

THEME OVERVIEW

Who would have thought that after man discovered and perfected the generation, transmission and distribution of electrical current, new inventions, applications and scientific disciplines would suddenly burst to life and branch out as an endless stream of technological possibilities? More amazingly, who would have imagined that in just a little over a century, man has succeeded in generating and extracting electrical energy (and therefore, power) from the most unlikely of sources such as plain water and air?

Undoubtedly, the last hundred years or so have seen the world evolve and develop much faster than the two previous millenniums combined. It isn't surprising then, that the previously huge and divided world would now appear so small and accessible. Supersonic air travel make any part of the world reachable in eight hours or less. Access to news and information, or even people based halfway around the globe are now done in real time. In other words, the advent of modern-day communications and travel eventually created a new philosophy and world economic-political order called Globalization. And it is in the midst of all these that the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines, Inc., is determined to thrive and succeed as a professional organization.

Living up to the distinction of being the sole accredited professional organization of electrical engineering practitioners in the country, IIEE has dedicated 2001 as the year it would actively stake its claim as a partner of other professions in the advancement of modern technology. It is a year when it would harness its available people and resources in utiliz ing all the possibilities presented by the tools of the 21st Century. And it shall avail of all these – Information Technology, the Internet, satellite communications, quantum electronics, E-commerce, etc. – in order to devise new ways of serving its members and enhancing the standards and prestige of the electrical profession in the Philippines.

Knowing the magnitude and encompassing reach of these tools, it shall likewise adopt itself and do its share in securing the Philippines' place in the emerging global economic order. Towards this end, the Institute is determined to forge, renew or maintain linkages with foreign professional societies and carry out cooperative ventures that would enhance the level of expertise and skills of its members. Furthermore, as the stewards of the energy sector in the country, it shall likewise focus its efforts in sustaining and supporting the over-growing energy needs of the country, as the Philippines' slowly nears its dream of one day becoming a fully industrialized nation.All these, the Institute will strive to achieve, alongside its avowed role as the overseer of the faithful and proper compliance by everyone to the ethical/professional standards and existing laws pertaining to the practice and application of electrical engineering in the country.

In all certainty, the Institute will again look into the possibility of employing these new technologies in pursuing this end.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

REGISTRATION DAY, JUNE 20, 2001

Time	Activity	Venue
8:30 am - 5:30pm	REGISTRATION	Gallery 4 & 5
12:00 noon onwards	IIEE SPORTSFEST (Bowling)	Robinsons Place Ermita

DAY 2 – FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2001

Time	Activity	Venue
8:00 am	SIMULTANEOUS PRODUCT PRESENTATION	Ballroom C
9:15 am-12:15 pm	COUNCIL OF FORMER PRESIDENTS' MEETING	Escolta Room
12:15 – 1:30 pm	LUNCHBREAK	
1:30 – 6:00 pm	INDUSTRY PRESENTATION	Ballroom C
6:00-- 9:00 pm	CHAPTER OFFICERS' MEETING	Ermita Room

DAY 1, THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2001

Time	Activity	Venue
8:30 - 9:00 am	ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES	BALLROOM C, MANILA MIDTOWN HOTEL
9:00 am	OPENING CEREMONIES Processional March	
9:15 am	INVOCATION by Engr. R. N. Ferrer, National Secretary	
9:20 am	IIEE March	
9:27 am	ENTRANCE OF COLORS	
9:38 am	NATIONAL ANTHEM	
9:44 am	INTRODUCTION OF VIP & GUESTS by Engr. Ed P. Mencias, Emcee	
9:55 am	OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 2001 GEN. MEMBERSHIP MEETING & TECHNICAL FORUM by: Engr. F. V. Mapile, Exec. Director, Convention Bureau	
10:00 am	WELCOME ADDRESS by Engr. F.M. Barrientos, National President	
10:10 am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER INTRODUCTION Engr. M. H. Lagman, VP Ext. Affairs	
10:15 am	KEYNOTE SPEECH Mr. Daniel Valeriano, Vice President, First Generation Holdings	
10:30 am	AWARDING OF TOKEN OFAPPRECIATION	
10:41 am	MOA Signing with PSME, IECEP, & UAP	Exhibition Areas 1,2 & 3
11:00 am	RIBBON-CUTTING & FORMAL OPENING OF EXHIBIT Mr. Daniel Valeriano, Guest of Honor	
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Viewing of Exhibits & Lunch Break	
1:00 – 4:00 pm	BUSINESS MEETING	Ballroom C
4:00 – 4:15 pm	MESSAGE OF BEE CHAIRMAN Hon. Rodolfo R. Peñalosa, BEE	
4:18 pm	FORUM ON PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE	
5:30 pm	END OF 1ST DAY	

Emcee ENGR. EDUARDO P. MENCIAS

DAY 3 (LAST), SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2001

Time	Activity	Venue
8:00 – 12:20 nn	SIMULTANEOUS TECHNICAL SESSION	Ballroom C
9:00 – 12:00 nn	AWARDING OF PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION TO EXHIBITORS by Engrs. F. M. Barrientos, F. V. Mapile, E. H. Tan, R. N. Ferrer	Exhibit Area 1, 2 & 3
LUNCH BREAK 12:20-1:25 pm		
1:30 – 4:30 pm	TECHNICAL FORUM Topic: "KNOW ABOUT ELECTRIC SERVICE APPLICATION & SERVICE INSTALLATION"	BALL ROOM C
5:00 pm	CLOSING CEREMONIES	
5:05 pm	INTRODUCTION OF THE GUEST SPEAKER By Engr. Fe M. Barrientos	
5:05 – 5:20 pm	KEYNOTE SPEECH Mr. Jesus M. Alcordo, President NPC	
5:21 pm.	AWARDING OF PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION	
5:30 – 5:40 pm	CLOSING REMARKS By Engr. Francis V. Mapile	
5:40 onwards	DISTRIBUTION OF CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION (Raffle Draw)	

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Pursuant to Section 25 of RA7920, better known as the New Electrical Engineering Law, all electrical practitioners of the various professional grades (PEE,REE & RME), shall automatically become IIEE members, ipso facto, as the section provides for mandatory membership to an accredited professional organization (APO). However, in order to avail of the benefits and assistance the organization extends to all its *bona fide* members, one has to formally apply and pay the corresponding membership dues. Electrical professionals who are non-IIEE members are therefore enjoined to apply in order to qualify for all the privileges enjoyed by IIEE members.

Likewise, although CPE units are no longer required for the renewal of professional licenses as prescribed in the current PRC Modernization Law (RA8981), it shall be a requirement for inclusion in the APEC Engineer Registry, an international body regulating cross border practice.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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It is with distinct pleasure that I convey my warmest felicitations to the Engineers of the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines, Inc. (IIEE) on its 2001 Mid-Year General Membership Meeting and Technical Forum.

The holding of this momentous event with the theme "IIEE- Onwards to Face the Challenges of New Technology and Globalization", echoes your profound commitment in responding to the socio-economic challenges of the 21st Century.

The role of the Electrical Engineer in providing a more systemized and dynamic society for our people come to the fore in a rapidly changing and modernizing environment. I call on IIEE to assist our administration in housing millions of Filipinos, and providing them with a better opportunity to live dignified lives.

The government welcomes efforts of organizations like IIEE in nation building. I ask you to join me in rebuilding this nation towards greater peace, prosperity and stability.

Congratulations and mabuhay!

MANILA
20 JUNE 2001

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President

SIMULTANEOUS TECHNICAL SESSIONS - JUNE 23 2001

Topic: AUTOCADD FOR ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING APPLICATION	Topic: INTERNET AS A TOOL FOR EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE	Topic: ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATION
Topic: THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE PHILIPPINE ELECTRICAL CODE PART 1 – 2000	Topic: STANDARDS TO BE DEVELOPED FOR GLOBALIZATION	Topic: PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATIONS OF FIBER OPTICS

TECHNICAL FORUM

"KNOW ABOUT ELECTRIC SERVICE APPLICATION & INSTALLATION"

- Meralco's Procedures and Policies for Electric Service Application
- Procedures in Securing Electrical Permit and CFEI as per RA 7920, PD 1096 & PEC I

INDUSTRY PRESENTATION

June 22, 1:30 – 6:00 p.m.

"ELEMENTS OF A POWER CRISIS"
By Engr. Chrysogenous Herrera, Vice President
Philippine Independent Power Producers Association

"THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001"
By Francisco Viray,
Former Secretary, Department of Energy

"VIEWS OF UTILITY COMPANIES ON THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001"
By Rodolfo H. Quetua, Vice President for Utility & Economics
Manila Electric Company

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2001 CONVENTION BUREAU

SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

I wish to commend the leadership of the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines, Inc., on the occasion of its 2001 General Membership Meeting and Technical Forum on June 20-23 at the Manila Midtown Hotel, Ermita, Manila.

The theme of your organization's Mid-year Convention could not have been more aptly chosen: "IIEE Onwards to Face the Challenges of New Technology and Globalization". Not only does it highlight IIEE 's institutional mission under present conditions, but also emphasizes the crucial role professional electrical engineers play in integrating the Philippines into the mainstream of the New Global Economy.

As you hold you Mid-Year Convention, I also take pride in the fact that IIEE has existed for the sole purpose of helping its members maintain the high standards of professional and academic competence.

More power and *mabuhay kayong lahat*

Nene
Aquilino Pimentel, Jr.
Senate President

Through the grace of the Almighty God and the dedication and support shown by all of us at the Institute, we are once again coming together in the spirit of professional brotherhood and solidarity as we stage the 2001 Mid-year General Membership Meeting and Technical Forum.

Guided by our annual theme, "IIEE: Onwards to Face the Challenges of New Technology and Globalization", our mid-year convention will highlight the Institute's resolve and determination to play a greater role in understanding, and therefore developing the unlimited potentials brought about by new technologies in these exciting times.

Towards this end, I would like to extend my best wishes to all our member-delegates who have accepted our invitation to be part of this event. The same goes to all our sponsors, benefactors and exhibitors who have supported us in our efforts to make this convention meaningful and worthwhile for all of us. Rest assured, I look forward to your active participation during the next three days, as we "scale the heights of new technology and globalization".

Thank you and more power to all of you!

FE M. BARRIENTOS, P.E.E.
National President

I would like to extend IIEE's warm and sincere greetings to all our colleagues in the Electrical Profession who have responded, and thus joined the Institute as it moves "Onwards to Face the Challenges of New Technology and Globalization".

In this era of rapid technological change and increased interconnectivity, it is IIEE's primary objective to keep the Filipino Electrical Professional abreast with the latest skills and applications available in the practice of their profession. To make this possible, we at IIEE have continuously maintained cooperative linkages with foreign and local professional organization, corporations as well as individuals, who can enlighten us on the practical use of these emerging technologies. And the best way for us to bring them together is through national conventions such as these.

Thus, it is both our honor and pleasure to bring you the 2001 Mid-Year General Membership Meeting and Technical Forum from June 20-23 at the Manila Midtown Hotel. We look forward to your active participation in all the activities we have line up, and we hope that you will continue to support your Institute in the future conventions to come.

Thank you and mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANCIS V. MAPILE, P.E.E.
VP-Internal & Exec. Director,
2001 Convention Bureau

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Groups say US leading 'biopiracy' perpetrator

BY ELIZABETH MARCELO
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The Philippines called on countries participating in an international conference on protected area management here to step up the fight against biopiracy, tagging the United States as the top perpetrator of the crime of "stealing the natural wealth" of less developed countries.

Biopiracy is defined as the use of intellectual property laws such as patents to gain exclusive control over genetic resources that are based on the knowledge and innovation of indigenous peoples.

Leaders of environmental groups in Asia gathered here have deplored the refusal of the United States to sign the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity since 1993.

The Philippines is among 150 countries that have already signed the convention. It is to be presented to the Senate for ratification.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, who keynoted the opening of the three-day conference on behalf of President Macapagal-Arroyo, said despite this, "we will seek to protect our interest" by pushing for the enforcement of penalties and sanctions against biopiracy.

Alvarez gave the assurance after Roger Birosel, secretary of the board of trustees of the NGOs for Integrated Protected Areas (Nipa) and secretary general of Earthsavers Philippines, revealed the most recent act of biopiracy committed by the US against the Philippines.

Birosel said a marine snail in Coron, Palawan, was found to have a natural chemical 1,000 times stronger than morphine but a US pharmaceutical firm, Cetus Co., had it patented and netted $80 million last year alone.

"That is how they are stealing our wealth and we should stop that," Birosel said. "The US is like the Abu Sayyaf—they do what they damn please."

Some countries "find better, faster ways of using the natural products of other countries" and resort to biopiracy, he said.

Birosel cited the *nata de coco* craze some 10 years ago, when Japan imported large quantities of the native delicacy made from coconut. It turned out that the product was used for the manufacture of computer motherboards.

Another instance of biopiracy was when a French company had the extract of a native flower, *ilang-ilang*, patented for the manufacture of perfume.

Alvarez admitted that for now, he has no answer as to how to effectively stop the US, but stressed the Philippines' determination to seek protection from biopiracy through various international forums.

"It is important for countries, which are signatories to the protocol, to be able to shape the mechanism for settling disputes like this and building the capacity to protect their protected area systems and their indigenous peoples' interest over these natural treasures," he said.

The Nipa, which organized this first of its kind international gathering, said it was determined to step up the fight against biopiracy by pushing for an international consensus on the enforcement of liabilities, accountability and penalties.

Birosel said the Macapagal administration is prepared to take this position, as decided in the committee on bio-diversity of the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development, of which he is a member.

"Under Executive Order 294 (and in accordance with) the protocol, we can enforce 'no fault penalties'—that is, there's no need to prove *kung sino ang may kasalanan* (whoever was at fault)," he said.

Army says raid foiled planned NPA attacks

BACOLOD CITY—A military raid on a rebel lair on Monday pre-empted a plan of the New People's Army to attack isolated police and military detachments in the province, officials said.

Lt. Col. Ivan Samarita, 11th Infantry Battalion commanding officer, said about 40 guerrillas of the NPA Larangan Gerilya I were at the rebel camp in Barangay Amin, Isabela town, 78 kilometers south of here, when his men conducted the raid.

"I find it unusual for the NPA to assemble such (a) large number of fighters if they have no intention to hit military detachments," he said.

Samarita said they also received intelligence reports of NPA plans to attack one of their detachments in Barangay Libas, also in Isabela, and a police detachment nearby.

An NPA squad leader and three soldiers were wounded during the raid.

Pfc. Marlon Deeps was hit in the stomach and left leg. Cpl. Hermegildo Lopez and Pvt. Andro Abadiano suffered minor wounds.

Military reports said a certain Ka Randy, an NPA squad leader under the command of Ka Moche, was also hit but was carried by his fleeing comrades.

Capt. Roberto Capapas, 11th IB spokesperson, said they were still verifying information that many rebels were wounded during the gunbattle as indicated by bloodstains.

Guns, bullets and communist documents were found in the camp.

Samarita said some of the food and cooking utensils that the rebels took from Isabela residents were also found in the guerrilla camp.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Jeep rams house; 3 killed, 11 hurt

NAGA CITY—Three persons were killed and 11 others were injured Monday evening when a jeepney rammed into a house along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Tambo, Pamplona, Camarines Sur.

Supt. Leocadio Santiago, Camarines Sur police provincial director, identified the victims who died instantly as couple Maximo, 84, and Rosana, 82, both surnamed Avila and King Arce Herandez, minor, all occupants of the house along what is now known as "killer highway."

Santiago said the jeepney was moving fast in a portion of the highway when it lost its brakes.

He said accidents on the killer highway had claimed the lives of hundreds of victims because there are no warning signs in the area.

Santiago said drivers could have avoided accidents had the Department of Public Works and Highways installed safety measures like fences along the blind curves of the highway.

He called on the DPWH to install infrastructure for the safety of drivers and commuters travelling along the notorious highway.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Masked men kill 3 in massacre

By Peter La. Julian
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

NAGUILIAN, La Union—Three members of a family, two of them pregnant women, were killed by five masked men who barged into their house in Barangay Bato here at dawn Tuesday.

One of the women fatalities, a victim of rape last year, was dragged out of the house, taken to a forested area about 100 meters away and then stabbed and shot.

Three of the suspects were later arrested in police operations here.

SP01 Valentin Abenojar, case investigator of the Naguilian police, identified the victims as Beatriz Ladia, 41, her daughter Perla, 17, and Ladia's live-in partner Ricardo Aveno, 41.

Ladia and Perla, police said, were pregnant.

NOXIOUS SMOKE, ODOR

Hospital incinerator draws heat

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—More than 50 residents, patients and hospital personnel have complained of noxious smoke coming out of the incinerator of the Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC) in Mandurriao, this city.

Environment and hospital officials, however, said the incinerator, that burns bio-medical wastes, is functioning well, contrary to the claims of residents.

In letter to Sen. Loren Legarda on June 11, Diana Magbanua, an employee of WVMC whose house is some 20 meters from the incinerator, said her family of six suffered various respiratory ailments since the facility started operating in 1997.

Magbanua and 51 residents, patients, hospital personnel, wanted the incinerator dismantled because it "affected their health since its operation."

When it operates from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., the incinerator gives off a burnt, acrid odor and thick, dark smoke from its smokestack.

Magbanua also noted a thin film of ash on the windowpanes of her and her neighbors' houses in the mornings, fueling their suspicion that the facility for hospital wastes has malfunctioned.

"When we inhale the smoke and ashes, we start to cough and suffer from sore throat that seems incurable," she said.

The incinerator, funded by a grant from the Austrian government, was built inside the hospital compound. Only a wall separates the incinerator from the hospital nurses' dormitory. It is about eight meters from the female surgical ward and nine meters from the post-natal ward where mothers and babies stay.

It was also about 10 meters from the pediatric ward and nine meters from another ward where patients suffering from infectious diseases are confined.

Jose Marie Fermin, the hospital director, refused to speak to reporters on the issue.

Joenil Calmorin, WVMC waste management division officer, was absent. But he said in an interview over a local TV station that the incinerator was one of the "most hi-tech incinerators in the world."

He said the waste facility emits black smoke when its nozzles stuck. Otherwise, it emits white smoke, which he said "is free from bacteria." It burns waste at 1,000 to 1,200 degrees Celsius.

Calmorin said it is normal for the incinerator to spew smoke and ash after burning 80 to 90 kilograms of waste per load. A load is turned to ashes in two hours.

Ariel Gloria, Community Environment and Natural Resources officer (Cenro), said the facility functioned well during an inspection on June 11.

A "visual test" showed that it emitted white smoke and showed no evidence of malfunction, he said. "It was clean," said Gloria.

But Gloria said his office and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau in Western Visayas, failed to get samples of the particulates inside the smokestack.

The hospital management failed to provide equipment to allow the DENR to collect samples for tests in the smokestack.

Gloria and the EMB team will conduct another test this week.

Gloria also said the DENR central office had exempted the incinerator from an Environmental Compliance Certificate because the facility was funded through a grant.

The ECC would have listed the measures to be taken in case the incinerator malfunctions.

Gloria said the hospital did not follow specifications suggested by the DENR, among them the installation of a water sprinkler to prevent ash from flying off the chimney.

Tests needed to ensure girl will survive surgery

By Hazel P. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Doctors are preparing to operate on 3-year-old Antonia Precious Marie Jamandre, the adopted girl suffering from multiple congenital defects.

Pediatric cardiologists at the Philippine General Hospital said the girl could be suffering from more serious ailments than earlier diagnosed.

The girl was earlier diagnosed to be suffering from Patent Doctus Arteriosus (PDA) or a blood vessel in her heart that did not close after she was born.

The results of new tests last week showed that the PDA may be closed by an operation "but there are (also) problems with her valve and blood."

The doctors, who requested anonymity, said they would be able to determine the real condition of Antonia after more tests today.

"The doctors said they will do some intervention procedures on Antonia and if that still does not work, they might have to do a bypass surgery. Let us pray that it (bypass) won't be necessary," said Mila Abad, a widow and former executive of the Philippine Airlines who went to Antonia's rescue after reading an article on the girl published in the Inquirer Visayas on June 2.

Abad accompanied Antonia and the child's adoptive mother, Letty, to the PGH for the girl's tests. She also facilitated their board and lodging in Manila.

With the help of Inquirer readers here and abroad, Antonia, Letty and companion Reynalda Española went to Manila on June 8 and to the PGH for a series of tests for Antonia prior to a possible operation.

Abad facilitated their free plane fare with Cebu Pacific Airlines. They are currently staying at the house of Lourdes Tanco in Manila, a friend of Abad.

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"For there is the inspiration given to human minds, so that certain persons,
filled with the Holy Spirit, come to possess the highest wisdom and the readiest eloquence..."
St. Thomas Aquinas

CAPITOL MEDICAL CENTER
DEPT. OF OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY
Launches the
Fellowship and Preceptorship Programs in OB-GYN Ultrasound

Capitol Medical Center announces the Fellowship and Preceptorship Programs in OB-GYN Ultrasound, and Blue Sky Trading Co., Inc. supports this endeavor. These programs have long been envisioned by the current Department Chair of OB-GYN Dr. Franklin P. Atencio, after the establishment of its own Ultrasound Section.

The Fellowship is a one-year full-time training program offered to graduates of accredited OB-GYN residency programs who have at least passed the Diplomate exams of fellows. The Preceptorship is a three-month full-time training program offered to OB-GYN practitioners interested in incorporating ultrasound into their personal clinical practice.

With the advent of higher technology as an adjunct in the management of OB-GYN problems, the department has taken the challenge to train more specialists to better equip them in total health care management.

Presently, the section has 10 OB-GYN sonologists. They are Dr. Melendre V. Araos - Section Head, Dr. Ma. Luisa Acu, Dr. Ma. Estrella Flores, Dr. Evangeline Lazaro, Dr. Margareth Libiran, Dr. Cecilia Martinez, Dr. Edward Padilla, Dr. Christia Padolina, Dr. Susana Camille Sanchez and Dr. Flerida Tan.

Capitol Medical Center OB-GYN Ultrasound Section Staff with Dr. Franklin P. Atencio - Chair OB-GYN Department

The new OB-GYN Ultrasound Section is housed at the 4th floor of the new building of Capitol Medical Center within the Total Women's Health Care Complex.

For details please call the OB-GYN Ultrasound Section at 372-8897. Course Director of the Fellowship and Preceptorship Program is Dr. Christia Padolina.

The section has ultrasound machines with doppler and 3D capabilities. The VOLUSON 530D MT is also available. This unit has innovative Live 3D™ visualization which captures 3D motion of the moving fetus and organs.

Aside from training programs, the section offers the following services from 7a.m. - 7p.m., Monday to Saturday:

- fetal scanning / fetal aging / fetal growth monitoring
- congenital anomaly screening complemented with 3D-4D ultrasound
- screening of gynecological cases - myomas, ovarian newgrowths, follicle monitoring and tubal patency tests
- antepartum surveillance including biophysical profiles and doppler studies

VOLUSON 530D MT

Aetas win battles to keep dignity, self-reliance intact

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

(Last of two parts)

AFTER a year of misery in their temporary relocation site, the Aetas of Lakas (Lubos na Alyansa ng mga Katutubong Aeta ng Sambales) were able to buy a 7.5-hectare property in Bihawo, Mambog, in Botalan, Zambales. This will be their permanent home.

Said Ben Jugatan, a leader who was a young boy then: "Bihawo is the 10th and last place we would settle in. This is where we found new hope. This is like our paradise. We were determined to create a new wilderness that would be similar to what we left behind. We worked the land and together we built homes. Each of the 150 families was allotted 625 sq. m. We planted bananas, *kamote*, mangoes, cashew and other fruit trees. Behind our homes was a 48-hectare unused government property that we cleared and farmed. The Department of Environment (and Natural Resources) allowed us to use it."

Added Epang: "When the volcano erupted everything we had was lost—land, homes, our cooperative store, the sewing center, the fish pond, work animals. But the values that had helped shape our sense of self and awareness of our dignity remained intact.

"We reflected (on) and realized the importance of sense of self, of the non-material rather than the material that could be swept away in a wink. Apo Namalyari gives, Apo Namalyari takes away. We deepened and strengthened our organization."

We shall return

Ben mused: "We still long for the day when we could go back to our ancestral domain. So we are actively lobbying in (the House of Representatives) and the Senate. We want the government to concretely implement the Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA)."

The Aetas have regularly visited the place where Yamot used to be. Phivolcs director Raymundo Punongbayan, however, explained that it would take years for the buried areas to be fertile again. The director is considered a special friend by the Aetas.

"In the process of rising," Ben continued, "our culture played a big role because this has established our identity as Aetas. We are not ashamed of this heritage. We want to enrich this.

"And so we have, these many years, interacted with other indigenous groups. We have traveled around the country and abroad so we could learn about other peoples and their culture. In order to make our culture more alive, we have established a theater group called Tala (Tanghalang Ayta ng Lakas). Through theater, we are able to share our culture, our beliefs, our laws, our dreams."

Education, a key

Orosco Cabalig recalled: "One of the great things that came into our lives was education. Now we have a school that is close to our homes. Many of us are in school, even in college. At first, we could feel the discrimination. They call us *kulot, salot, Ita maitim*. They laughed at our G-strings. When we could not answer in class, some would say, 'They don't have that in the mountains, that's why.' Still we were unfazed. We knew we could do it."

"We became even more resolute," Epang said. "We studied hard. We joined the Student Organization. We thought, 'If we could lead effectively in our own, could we do the same in school?' So we participated in school elections and some of us won. Of the 15 seats, six are occupied by Aetas. Now we are slowly being recognized in school by our classmates and teachers. Many have finished high school and college.

Education toward functional literacy is very much a part of the Aetas' learning process."

Said Orosco: "This means we don't only learn how to read and write but we also learn about our rights and how to fight for them. At a young age, each one learns to be a leader so that we do not rely on only a few." Lakas has taught them this.

"We, the youth, have our own common piece of land that we till so that we could earn for our school fees. This is our way of helping our parents," Ben said.

Globetrotters

He added: "We keep in touch with other indigenous groups here and abroad, with NGOs and government agencies. (There are about 130,000 Aetas spread all over the Philippines.) We had gone to the US and Australia to participate in literacy conferences. We were represented in the Earth Summit in Brazil and we attended a gathering on indigenous spirituality sponsored by the South Dakota Indians. Some of our women had gone to an Asia-Pacific conference of indigenous women."

Several have joined the Lakbay Aral travel program and interacted with aborigines of Australia, New Zealand, Bougainville, Fiji, East Timor, Vanuatu. They have seen the problems facing people like them.

Truly empowered

In 1992, with the help of the Franciscan nuns, the Aetas published a book "Eruption and Exodus: Mount Pinatubo and the Aytas of Zambales" which chronicles through photographs and first-hand accounts their journey during the eruption. This was launched at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

But that is not their biggest achievement or reward. The greatest one came in April 1999 with the complete turn over of projects and community programs to the Aetas by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary who had worked with them for almost 20 years.

"This was a sign, a proof that we have become truly empowered," said Epang. She spoke of *"pagsasakapangyarihan"* or empowerment. "With the blessings of Apo Namalyari we will bravely move on. We have reaped what we have sown."

C. Luzon economy 'back on its feet'

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Investments in Central Luzon, recorded last year at P40.6 billion, grew by 90 percent in the last three years while exports from the region were valued at $3.121 billion, according to records of the National Economic and Development Authority.

The employment rate last October reached 90.1 percent and there are fewer poor families now in the region than there were 10 years ago, Neda records said.

"Back on its feet," was how government economists described Central Luzon after comparing indicators before and after the June 1991 devastating eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo.

The recovery was far from steady, with slightly rosy figures trickling in only starting 1997, a report obtained from the regional Neda showed.

From a growth rate of 2.84 percent in 1991, the 1992-1996 period saw the gross regional domestic product (GRDP) grow at an average of 4.18 percent, still much lower than the 4.45 percent GRDP attained from 1987 to 1990.

Neda traced those years' economic difficulties to the lahar and volcanic mudflows washed down to the lowlands by strong rains.

Still experiencing a continuing disaster and hit by the Asian financial crisis, the region experienced a high negative growth rate of 6.19 percent.

It immediately bounced back in 1999, scoring a positive growth rate of 3.84 percent, the Neda said.

The interventions of government largely shored up the sagging regional economy. The government poured P17.7 billion between 1991 and 1996 in public infrastructures, including the P2.77-billion FVR Megadike.

At least P470 million of the P3.6 billion in livelihood funds was released to investors and businesses, the Neda reported. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds and coastal waters will be moderate to rough. The Western sections of Luzon and Visayas and the rest of Northern Luzon will experience scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 32° Lo 24°	Baguio Hi 21° Lo 14°	Tuguegarao Hi 30° Lo 23°	Laoag Hi 29° Lo 25°
Clark Zone Hi 30° Lo 23°	Tagaytay Hi 27° Lo 21°	Legazpi Hi 32° Lo 25°	Calapan Hi 30° Lo 23°
Bacolod Hi 31° Lo 24°	Roxas Hi 31° Lo 25°	Cebu Hi 31° Lo 25°	Tacloban Hi 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos Hi 32° Lo 24°	Zamboanga Hi 32° Lo 24°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 32° Lo 22°	Davao Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/20/01

PDI BUREAUS

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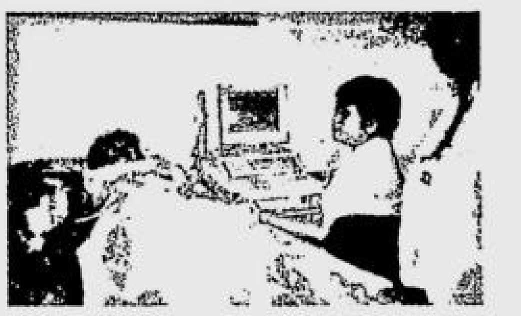
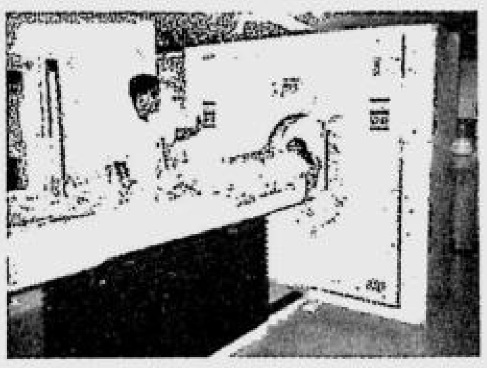
The New Clinical Neurophysiology (EMG)



Headed by a team of medical specialists, the Clinical Neurophysiology Laboratory is one of the latest facilities of CMC. The unit is equipped with the latest Electromyography equipment. The Electromyography and Nerve Conduction studies or EMG-NCS are neurophysiologic examinations that document the electric activity of the outer nervous system and muscles. Most commonly, EMG-INS is used as a tool in the diagnosis of orthopedic, spine and neurologic problems.

Computed Tomography Scan (C.T. Scan) Section



The Department of Radiology has acquired a new spiral CT scanner from Siemens. It is one of the fastest gantries around, making it one of only a handful of sub-second spiral CT Scanners in the Philippines.
This translates to numerous advantage points such as; ability to scan patients who are less cooperative or pediatric patients, produce high-resolution sharp images than in conventional scanners. It also has the ability to scan during peak contrast enhancement, which enables the medical experts to perform new techniques.
The unit has CT fluoroscopy that allows the interventional radiologist to see the needle's movement while performing biopsies and other CT guided procedures.

The Women Center: Total Health Care Center for Women

On June 2001, the Capitol Medical Center will be opening its new Obstetrics and Gynecology Complex to highlight the occasion of its 31st Anniversary. Keeping with the vision of "Total Health Care for Women," the new complex boasts of state of the art gynecology operating and ultrasound equipment, a mother-friendly labor and delivery room, a high-risk pregnancy unit, a menopause clinic and a VIP labor, delivery and recovery room.
The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of CMC, formed in 1970, has continued to offer a diversity of educational experiences for residents in training and source of information via consultation and continuing medical education for practicing physicians. Residents are trained in the basic Obstetrics and Gynecology skills needed to achieve clinical competence. The program incorporates a wide range of medical care which combine the process of bringing new life into the world and providing continuous and progressive health care for women.
Coinciding with this event, a Postgraduate Course will be held on June 21 and 22 at the CMC auditorium. With the theme "A Glimpse into the 21st Century Obstetrics and Gynecology," the course aims to improve and enhance further practicing physician's continuing medical education and keep them abreast with recent developments.

CAPITOL MEDICAL CENTER
Scout Magbanua cor. Panay Ave., Quezon City
Trunk Line: 372-3825 to 72 Fax: 372-8855
Website: www.capitolmedical.org E-mail: info@capitolmedical.org

Having been in service for more than ›e decades, Capitol Medical Center has :easingly served the Filipino Community by viding well-trained medical practitioners and ıcialists with the latest state-of-the-art lities.

Thirty-one years have passed since the building was built. Founded by Dra. Thelma Clemente and her husband, Luis Clemente and their associates, this institution has grown to become one of the leaders in providing the best in health care delivery. It was in 1970 when the first building of CMC was constructed giving birth to a significant institution in the field of medicine. In 1973, CMC II or the Annex Building was constructed due to the increasing demand for expansion in facilities and services.

Through the years, Capitol Medical Center's progress can be seen from its rapid expansion. CMC Building III was constructed in 1984, to house the Comprehensive Out-Patient Center. Just last year, as the institution celebrated its Pearl Anniversary, CMC IV, a 16-storey building, was built to meet the demand for better facilities.

With these expansions and extensive acquisition of the latest medical facilities, Capitol Medical Center, renews its commitment to continue the tradition of quality health care.

31st ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

May 28 - June 16 (M - S) 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Skills Training Program
12th Floor Auditorium

June 1 - 8 (M - S) 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sagip Mata Project
Capitol Eye Center
2/F CMC IV

June 1 - 8 (M - S) 8:00a.m. - 12:00nn
Operation Tule
ER-Out Patient Clinic for the Out of School Youth

June 4 - 15 8:00a.m. - 12:00nn
June 18 - 30 (M - S) 1:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.
Bone Density Test
Physical Therapy
Ground Floor, CMC 2

June 6 (Wednesday) 8:00a.m.
Blessing of Emergency Room
Ground Floor

June 13 (Wednesday) 8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.
"Clinical Discussion Common Pediatric Neurologic Problems"
Symposium and Seizure Workshop
12th Floor Auditorium

June 14 - 20 (M - S) 8:00a.m. - 12:00nn
Free Clinic
CMC Parking Lot

June 20 (Wednesday) 8:00a.m.
Anniversary Thanksgiving Mass
12th Floor Auditorium

June 20 (Wednesday) 9:30a.m.
Blessing of OB-Ultrasound & Total Health Care for Women
4th Flr., CMC-IV

June 20 - 26 (M - S) 8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.
Free Hearing Evaluation
E.N.T. Center
2nd Floor, CMC-IV

June 21 - 22 (Thursday & Friday) 8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.
1st Post Graduate Course:
"A Glimpse into 21st Century OB-GYN"

June 23 (Saturday) 3:00p.m.
Annual Employees Program
5th Floor Multi-Purpose Hall

June 24 (Saturday) 8:00a.m. - 12:00nn.
CMC FUN DAY
St. Mary's Gymnasium

June 26 (Tuesday) 2:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.
Ethical Dimension in the Withdrawal of Life Measures
12th Floor Auditorium

INQUIRER*Northern Luzon*

JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

Memories of a volcano gone wild

BY TONETTE OREJAS
Pampanga

VOLCANIC eruption. Central Luzon residents did not get to learn the intimate meaning of that from books or from oral accounts of elders, for none of such kind and magnitude had occurred in the region in the last 500 years or so.

Mt. Pinatubo gave that rare lesson when it roared back to life 10 years ago. The people do not only remember a volcano going berserk or the lingering disaster it spawned. This compilation of recollections tells much of what else had happened in the last 10 years.

Fast Facts

MT. Pinatubo belongs to the chain of composite volcanoes in the Luzon volcanic arc. Looming 1,745 meters high, it used to be one of the highest peaks in Central Luzon's western mountain range that straddles Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales.

Clark and Subic, then two of the United States' biggest military bases in the Philippines, lie within the 25-km and 40-km radius of the volcano, respectively.

- First sign of volcanic unrest: April 2, 1991.
- Climactic eruption: June 15, 1991, coincided with typhoon "Yunya" ("Didang" in the Philippines).
- The 1991 eruption of Pinatubo was the world's second largest in the 20th century, next to the 1912 eruption of Novarupta in Alaska.
- Pinatubo emitted some 7 cubic km of pyroclastic flows that extended 19 km from the summit. A huge ash cloud rose 220 meters from the vent.
- Affected families: 215,971 families or 1,020,193 people (Department of Social Welfare and Development, 1992)
- Damage to public infrastructure: P3.8 billion (Department of Public Works and Highways, August 1991)
- 18,000 hectares of forest land buried by 25-cm thick ashfall (Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 1991)
- 96,200 hectares of agricultural land seriously affected by ashfall (Department of Agriculture, 1992)
- Damage to crops, livestock and fisheries: P1.4 billion (DA, 1992)
- Total foregone income of industries: P3.1 million (National Statistics Office, 1992)
- Between 200 and 300 people were either pinned to death from homes that crumbled from the weight of sand or from communicable diseases. The leading ailments were acute respiratory infections, diarrhea and measles. Mortality rate were especially high among Aeta children (Department of Health, 1991)
- 1.309 million people were served outside of evacuation centers as of October 1993. At least 159 centers for 54,880 persons were maintained in the region (DWSD, 1993)
- Central Luzon's gross regional domestic product fell from P68.8 billion in 1990 to P67.2 billion in 1991 (National Statistical Coordinating Board, July 1993)

(*Sources: Fire and Mud [Edited by Christopher Newhall, United States Geological Survey; and Raymundo Punongbayan, chief, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology], DSWD, DPWH, DENR, DA, DOH and NSCB)*

Recollections

"WE offered three pigs so Apo Namalyari (the mountain deity) would be appeased. The *pangiwi* (offering) and our *adakudo* (prayers) did not work. Smoke continued to emit from the vents. He was angry because (the geothermal drillings) of PNOC (Philippine National Oil Corp.) disturbed him. For the first time, we had to run to the lowlands."—***Libreng Cosme**, Aeta elder in Barangay Sta. Juliana in Capas, Tarlac*

* * *

"THE EARTHQUAKES grew stronger every minute, like they were horses galloping. But we did not leave our village until the big ash cloud appeared (on June 12). From the school (at the foothills) where we evacuated, I saw balls of fire spurting (from the volcano on June 15). Next I saw a bigger ash cloud moving, expanding like it was going to eat us up. Then, it suddenly turned dark even while it was noon . . . I thought we would not survive that."—***Nemia Bautista**, resident, Cabangan, Zambales*

* * *

"THE SIGHT of sand all around you can make you crazy."—***Armando Ramos**, resident, Palauig, Zambales*

* * *

"OUR community was dismembered, our people scattered everywhere."—***Patakaran Balario**, Aeta leader in Pangolingan resettlement, Palauig, Zambales*

* * *

"THE ERUPTIONS of 1991 and their muddy aftermath have taken an enormous toll on the people of Central Luzon. Fewer than 1,000 lives have been lost, but more than 200,000 families and more than a million people have suffered some loss of dislocation as a result of ash fall, lahar or flooding."—***Cynthia Banzon Bautista**, Department of Sociology and Center for Integrative and Development Studies, University of the Philippines*

* * *

"THE ERUPTION provides an excellent example of how accurate forecasting and timely warning saved lives from the destructive agents unleashed by a violent eruption. The number of casualties at the height of the June 1991 eruptions was small (only 200 to 300) despite the violence of the explosions and the vastness of the area affected."—***Jean Tayag**, Phivolcs*

* * *

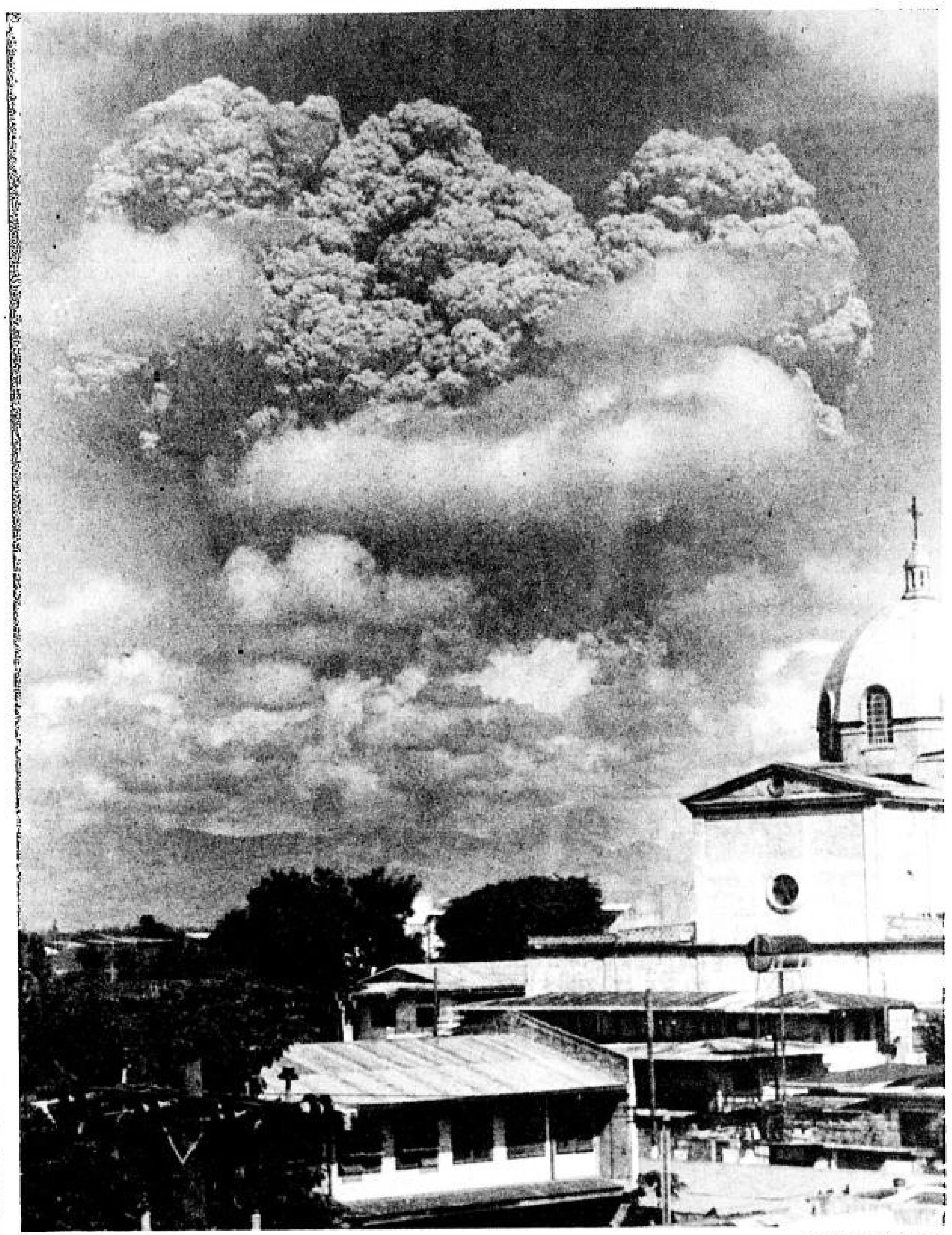
"YOU cannot be sentimental now. We have long-term goals: resume livelihood, attain literacy, improve health."—***Nando Balario**, an Aeta who finished agricultural technology and who works with his people, on not returning to Pinatubo*

* * *

"THOSE who cannot fully comprehend the meaning and importance of biodiversity may not be alarmed at the demise of many rare plant and animal species brought about by Pinatubo's eruption. This perhaps is the most appropriate time to arouse their interest and sentiment. The plant species lost will not come back to life again. Shall we let other species suffer the same fate?"—***Domingo Madulid**, Division of Botany, National Museum*

* * *

"IT is safe for now."—***Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan**, Phivolcs chief, on the danger of Pinatubo crater-lake collapsing.*



FILEPHOTO/BERT BASA

MT. Pinatubo bursts with fury in this photo taken in 1991 in San Fernando town in Pampanga.

Autumn of North's patriarchs

BY FRANK CIMATU
Ilocos Sur

AUTHOR Gabriel Garcia Marquez described his novel, "The Autumn of the Patriarch," as "a poem on the solitude of power."

After this year's elections, Northern Luzon's political patriarchs, like the novel's omnipotent dictator, would have ample time to reflect on the solitude of power and how limiting absolute power is.

Every newspaper in the Ilocos has been trumpeting about the victory of the same old names—Singson, Marcos, De Venecia, Valera, Ortega and Ablan. But the victory of these same old names, as seen in the past elections, has been limited to their mini-empires.

Outgoing Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson only has 10 days before he finally has no elective position. But no one would dispute that he still holds the strings.

Singson's brother Jeremias is the elected Ilocos Sur vice governor. His son Ronald topped the provincial board elections in the province's first district. His niece, Eva Singson-Medina, was reelected Vigan City mayor, while his sister Germy Singson-Goulard is a new city councilor.

But things are not as predictable as it seems.

Singson's successor for governor, former San Ildefonso vice mayor and outgoing Vice Gov. Deogracias Savellano, won but not after a close fight with former board member Efren "Rambo" Rafanan.

Rafanan should be known as "the Jun Pala of Ilocos Sur" (after the anti-communist Davao broadcaster who helped bring to infamy the Alsa Masa and other vigilante groups in the 1980s. Pala survived an ambush last week) because he, too, is revered by his radio fans.

His broadcasts used to herald the achievements of Singson and he used to call himself the "No. 1 Fan of Chavit." Together, they formed the Community Information and Alliance (CIA), which was supposed to be the community conduit of Singson's social services.

When Singson chose Savellano, Rafanan felt hurt and decided to run under the Rizalista Party.

Without any funds and using the CIA as his network, he trailed Savellano by only 15,000 votes.

"Whenever I talked about my platform (poverty alleviation), the people would cry. They would give from P100 to P3,000," Rafanan said in Ilocano. "I saw how debilitating the condition is in the barrios. And I believe that one way to hold on to the voters is to make them poor."

Vote-buying

Reports of vote-buying in the province has been so rampant that radio stations for days were swamped with anonymous calls calling some candidates and bailiwicks as "Vice Mayor P250" or "Barangay Basta Jetmatic, Automatic."

Also for the first time, protest rallies were held in Vigan and Tagudin town, but for different reasons.

About 200 followers of losing mayoral candidate Roque Verzosa, Singson's long-time bodyguard, surrounded the town's auditorium where the counting of votes was being held, and accused the election officials of cheating.

The group also cursed Fr. Albert Rabe for running away with the ballots. Rabe, an active member of the National Movement for Free Elections and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, said he was just trying to protect the ballots.

On May 13, he read a pastoral letter condemning vote-buying in the town and called for vigilance in protecting the ballots.

Warning

"During the feast day of our patron, St. Agustin, the head of his statue fell. Let this be a warning about the fate of our town," Rabe told parishioners.

In the end, and with the arrival of police reinforcement, the counting in Tagudin resumed. Reelectionist Mayor Jose Bonuan won over Verzosa, who ran under Singson's Bileg Party.

In Vigan, about 50 people marched around the city, carrying placards with messages condemn-

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What Chavit can do

DON'T look now, but outgoing Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's principal witness against deposed President Joseph Estrada in the aborted impeachment trial, is now a director of the state-owned John Hay-Poro Point Development Corp. (JPDC).

HOMETOWN *Snapshots*

Emma Lim, 33, Singson's secretary, joined two retired generals, the widow of former tourism secretary **Jose Aspiras** and four others as directors of JPDC, which has a joint venture stake in the Poro Point Special Economic Zone in La Union and Camp John Hay in Baguio City.

Lim became an instant celebrity in December last year for offering the most direct testimony before the Senate impeachment court that linked Estrada to illegal gambling.

She admitted to have personally delivered P5 million to Estrada's office in Malacañang.

LIM

Lawyer **Damaso Bangaoet Jr.**, former president and now executive vice president of JPDC, said Lim formally joined the JPDC board sessions in April and May. She will attend another board session at Poro Point on June 27.

Bangaoet, who was replaced as JPDC president by retired general and ambassador **Fortunato Abat**, said the Presidential Management Staff facilitated the screening and designation of Lim, retired generals **Guillermo Ruiz** and **Eduardo Santos**, former La Union Vice Gov. **Amparo Aspiras**, businessman **Ives Nisce**, lawyer **Joseph Rulla**, **Ma. Cristina Corona** and **Jose Osias**. ***Vincent Cabreza***

Cheers for Samareño

"A CLASSIC example of civilian involvement in our anti-criminality campaign."

This was how law enforcers described the recent arrest of massacre suspect **Danilo Afalla** in Miami, Florida.

Lawyer **Norman Taloza**, National Bureau of Investigation district office chief in Nueva Vizcaya, said **Angelo Abutog**, a Filipino from Samar, would be commended for helping arrest Afalla, who was charged with four counts of parricide for allegedly bludgeoning to death his wife **Aperacion**, 40, and their children **Cheenie Claire**, 13, **Mark Anthony**, 11, and **Michael Angelo**, 5.

The bodies of the four victims were found in a shallow grave in Barangay Don Mariano Marcos in Nueva Vizcaya on April 17.

"Abutog will be commended for his valuable information leading to the arrest of the suspect," Taloza said. Abutog owns an apartment in Florida where Afalla, a seaman, hid after slipping out of the country on April 19.

Afalla left Manila for Kingston, Jamaica, where his ship was temporarily docked. But he instead went to Miami upon learning of the discovery of the bodies of his wife and children by the police and the NBI in Nueva Vizcaya.

Abutog, who learned of the crime through a Philippine tabloid, informed Taloza of Afalla's stay in his apartment. ***Ben Moses Ebreo***

ORROS

ORTEGA

Dynasty a misnomer?

A MEMBER of the powerful Ortegas in La Union has cried foul over allegations that his clan is a political dynasty, saying the term is a misnomer because they have been elected by the people.

Outgoing La Union Gov. **Justo Ortega Orros Jr.** said while their posts have been passed on to their siblings and relatives, this was not in the way of royalty or monarchy where successors take over as rulers because of blood lineage.

"The political exercise makes the difference," said Orros, whose son Jonathan was elected provincial board member.

Jonathan, 26, was one of 10 Ortegas who were elected to various posts in the province in the May 14 elections.

Among the Ortegas who won were San Fernando City Mayor **Mary Jane Ortega**, her husband **Victor**, a former congressman, who captured the gubernatorial post, and her brother-in-law, **Manuel**, who was reelected congressman of the first district.

Orros was reacting to newspaper reports about the country's entrenched political families, including the Ortegas who won in the last polls and who were criticized for dominating the elections in their areas by fielding either their husbands or wives, sons and other siblings and relatives.

"In the case of the Ortegas, is it our fault if the people (of La Union) keep electing and reelecting us to public office?" Orros, a three-term governor whose last term expires on June 30, said.

"We earned the trust and confidence of the electorate because of our good performance while in office," he said.

Peter La. Julian

Sabado's tattoos, mandala

By Elizabeth Lolarga

INSPIRED by books on Asian religions, the forms of the Cordillera *dap-ay* and tattoo, the circular rhythms of gong music and the spiral pattern of planting of highland farmers, sights and sounds he grew up with, John Frank Sabado has created a wondrous series of pen-and-ink portraits and mixed-media murals.

He also designed wooden tables with the mandala as his repetitive motif.

In his ongoing exhibit until July 9 at Iggy's Inn (South Drive, Baguio City), the largely self-taught artist also drew ideas from the optical illusions on the surface of Tingguian trance blankets or *binakul.*

He says, "My theory is that these patterns are seen from above and taken from water ripples as the wind blows. Our ancestors were ahead. They had adopted op-art before the term was even invented. The shamans also had a strong influence in the past. Their energy was strong, and they had quite an impact on the people. But this is being destroyed by modernization and Christianization although in some Cordillera weddings today, there is a combination of Christianity and animism."

Sabado drew intricate tattoos with his Point Four technical pen on the arms and upper torsos of his human figure. He explains, "Among Cordillera men, the tattoo reflects ranking. It is even like a diary. If the headhunting is successful, they record it on their bodies. For women the tattoo is a sign of wealth and beauty. It is like calligraphy. Their paper is the skin."

Work in progress

After he became a year 2000 Thirteen Artists awardee, Sabado had the entire length of his arms and the width of his waist tattooed by a fellow artist. He chose a beehive motif to symbolize wealth, "a golden harvest."

The tattoo is unfinished, "like a work in progress," he quips.

Some of his portraits also derived patterns from the primary colors (red, blue and yellow) of the Kalinga and Bontoc *tapis.* In the olden times, he says, these were the available colors used for dyeing.

He surmises that the early *tapis* weavers copied the colors from their beads. It was the Chinese who taught them how to weave and who brought the beads and jars to the Cordillera.

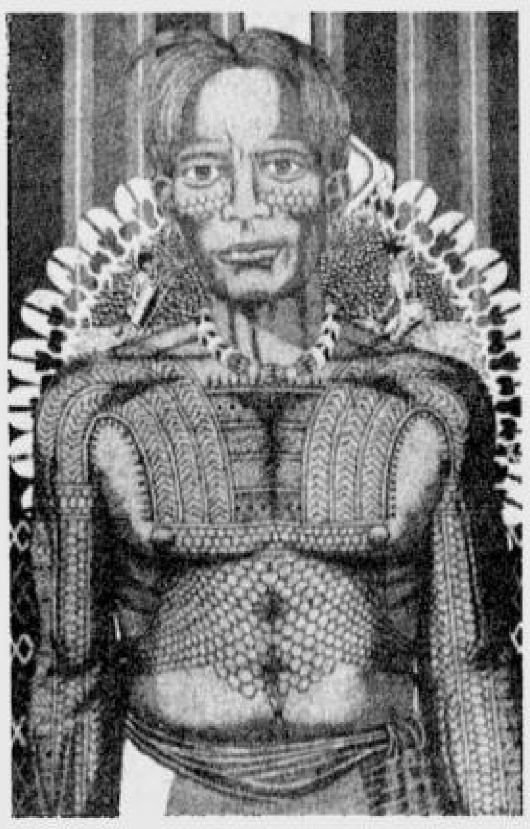
"Nowadays, these heirlooms are being sold to antique dealers and collectors by some mountain people,so they can send their children to school," he sadly notes.

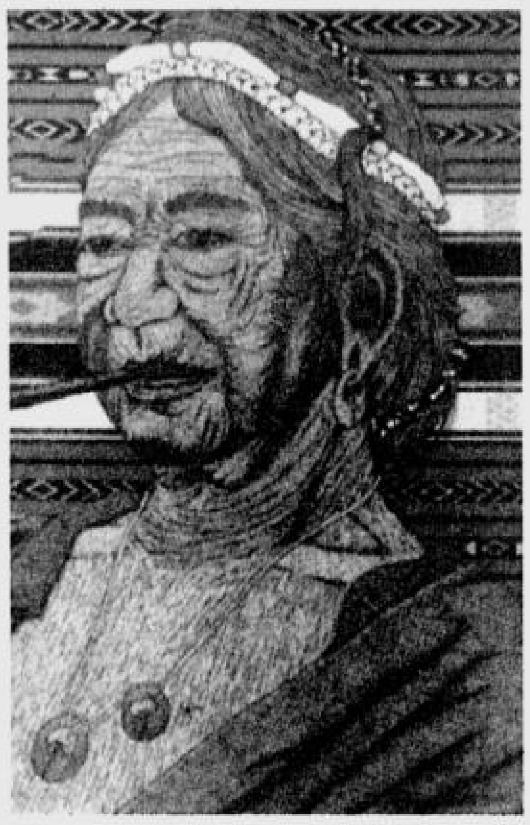
The visual result of his fusion of traditional art and contemporary idiom is stunning to say the least. What's more, he transferred these intricate patterns on six wooden tables with the help of Ifugao carver Leon Tayaban. The original idea came from Iggy's Inn owner Des Bautista, who knew Tayaban for being "*metikuloso sa trabaho* (works meticulously)."

Sabado drew dragonflies ("power insects of the Cordillera along with the bees," he says), butterflies, stars, trees, flowers, mandala, etc., on the planks of narra, mango and *camachile* wood. Using Pentel pen, he and his children Bulan, 9, and Lama, 6, shaded the parts of the wood that were later carved out.

He says, "The process taught my kids patience at an early age. They like to copy my work, drawing circles and mandala with people in them." For the murals, Sabado's wife Mary Jane helped in weaving the threads.

Like art critic Eric Torres once said of Sabado, his exhibition deserves a second, and in our case, a third visit.





TWO of John Frank Sabado's works: (left photo) "KALINGA Chieftain" (2000) pen and ink; (right photo) "Bontoc Woman" (2001) pen and ink.

Autumn . . .

(From page 18)

ing the Commission on Elections and politicians for yanking opposition Councilor George Villanueva out of the race.

Even with Namfrel and Bileg's tally that showed Villanueva in the winner's circle, he was nudged out in the last few precincts in the Comelec counting.

"Governor Singson ran his crusade for good governance so he shouldn't ignore these reports of vote-buying and cheating in his hometown," said Marjo Gasser, who lost to Medina in the Vigan mayoral race.

"For the first time here, the opposition did not play the game of the administration and we did not dole out any money. We may have lost but we gained our dignity," Gasser said.

Opposition leaders in other towns resorted to text massaging to condemn electoral fraud.

Singson should also heed the victories in the second district of his estranged cousin, former Rep. Eric Singson, and Edgar Zaragosa.

Eric reclaimed the congressional district there, while his wife, outgoing Rep. Grace Singson, won as Candon City mayor.

Zaragosa, who was supposed to be the opposition candidate for governor had not Singson intervened, topped the provincial board race in the second district and will join his son Zuriel, who is the youth representative. His wife Charito again won as Narvacan mayor.

In 1998, Eric squared off with Chavit over the gubernatorial post and although he lost, he won in all towns of his district, proving that the loyalties of their constituents did not cross borders.

Singson's Bileg did not do well outside Ilocos Sur. His candidate in Abra, Ernesto Pacuño, lost to Rep. Vicente Valera.

His private counsel in the impeachment hearing, Pablito Sanidad, lost in Baguio City, although people in Vigan say Sanidad is too independent-minded to vow to the wishes of Singson anyway.

The Comelec disqualified former Angadanan mayor Manuel Syquian (Bileg), leaving Rep. Faustino Dy Jr. unopposed as governor.

Valera and Dy are Singson's former political allies.

Singson's relationship with the Marcoses in the North was, however, non-obtrusive. In many issues like the Marcos family's alleged hidden wealth, he had sided with them.

The predicted victories of Rep. Imee Marcos, Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and former Rep. Roque Ablan Jr. in Ilocos Norte's first district showed that the ghost of former President Ferdinand Marcos was still a force to reckon with.

The loss of former patriarchs Gualberto Lumauig in Ifugao and Victor Dominguez in Mt. Province also commence their political autumn. The death of Benguet kingpin Benjamin Palispis and La Union's Jose "Sunshine Joe" Aspiras also reshaped the politics in their areas.

Palispis' death is said to have contributed to the loss of Rep. Ronald Cosalan to former Benguet Rep. Samuel Dangwa.

That would leave Singson indeed reminiscing on the solitude of power.

In 1992, Singson started the Northern Alliance to show that the North was still solid. Now, the North has fragmented to something like city-states in spite and because of Singson.

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How ransom was paid

(From page A1)

But the relatives of the victims talked freely about how they paid the ransom.

The negotiations went fast. First, they received a direct call from the satellite phone of Abu Sabaya. They were allowed to talk to their respective relatives.

The hostages had been divided into two groups, according to one relative of a kidnap victim. Relatives were separated one from the other. One group was either allowed to escape or were freed to arrange ransom payments. So, when a number of hostages escaped from one group, their relatives were with another group. This way the bandits were assured of payment not only for the freed or escaped hostages but also for their relatives still in captivity.

For instance, Teresa Ganzon was freed June 3 but her husband remained with another group. So was Letty Jao freed but not her daughter Kimberly who was with another group.

Romero telling truth

Reghis Romero of R-II Builders, the first to be free, told the truth when he said he had escaped. He had bargained with the bandits to reduce the ransom from P5 million to P3 million for him and Maria Rhiza Santos Rodriguez.

Romero really did escape not only with Rodriguez but also with the young boy, RJ Recio.

It is as Romero told it. He stayed in one of the rooms of the hospital and took one of the hospital pajamas and wore it pretending to be one of the patients in the hospital.

Even as he was safely home, Romero had no choice but to honor his commitment to pay up, according to the other relatives. Because Romero and other escapees had been warned, according to the INQUIRER sources, that they would be abducted again by the ASG urban forces in Metro Manila should they fail to deliver the agreed amount.

The source added that Romero was also worried about the lives of the remaining hostages if he would not make good his promise to pay.

Janice Go, who was among those who managed to escape, is still being asked to pay P500,000 even if she's already in Manila.

Another hostage, Luis Bautista III, who is still in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf, is also being asked to pay P500,000. Go and Bautista's relatives are trying to haggle for a 50-percent discount or, just P500,000 for the two of them.

Relatives of the victims say they understand the stand of the government neither confirming nor denying that ransom has been paid.

They say it's a state policy that must be respected. But because the safety of their loved ones is at stake while military operations intensify, they are left with no choice but to directly negotiate with the kidnappers.

Talk of the town

There is however another version of the Romero ransom payment, according to two local officials in Basilan who also refused to be named.

According to them, Romero actually paid P24 million. But they said the full amount did not go direct to the Abu Sayyaf but to other influential figures in the province.

Of the P24 million, P10 million allegedly went to a top local official; another P10 million went to the ASG. The balance of P4 million allegedly went to a military official in Mindanao.

This version is the talk of the town especially in the Lamitan area where the ASG managed to stage their escape amid a so-called "full military cordon."

Conduit

According to the source, Romero and the other relatives of the freed hostages tapped a conduit who worked for former negotiator of the Sipadan hostages and ex-Presidential Adviser on Flagship Projects Robert Aventajado.

That "conduit," according to the source, was Stef Sanio. The INQUIRER named him on Tuesday as the courier of ransom payments between the relatives of the victims and their captors. The PDI Mindanao Bureau also named him, along with someone named Jorge, as the courier for the Uy family for the release on Saturday of their daughter, Kimberly.

Families' meeting

According to one relative, after Romero's escape on June 3, a meeting among the families of the victims took place.

In that meeting, aside from the P3 million from Romero, the families also raised P4.7 million for the release of Kimberly Jao, Francis Ganzon and Lalaine Chua. The Jao family is engaged in several business ventures while Ganzon owns 11 rural banks in Batangas.

Patrick Jao, father of Kimberly, and representatives of the other relatives brought the ransom money to Zamboanga. They were reportedly met at the airport by Stef and Jorge and brought to a hotel in Zamboanga City. There the money was forwarded to a lady conduit of the ASG. The conduit reportedly did not accept the P4.7 million at once because it was not the amount agreed upon.

The relatives of the victims borrowed an additional P300,000 from Chinese businessmen in Zamboanga City to complete the P5-million ransom.

Then came the phone call from Sabaya to the conduit's cellular phone to confirm that payment had been made.

The same day, P5 million in cash was delivered to the hideout of the Abu Sayyaf somewhere in the mountains of Basilan.

Two days later, the Abu Sayyaf released Ganzon and Jao. But Chua was left behind. The ASG demanded the highest ransom from the Chua family for the release of Lalaine.

But her family, according to the INQUIRER sources, was only able to raise P1.5 million from the contribution of other members of the Chua family.

The conduit told the family that the Abu Sayyaf had rejected the amount.

Only P10 million will do, the ASG told the Chuas as narrated by an INQUIRER source privy to the negotiations.

A source close to the Chua family suspects that more is demanded of them as Lalaine is the only one without a relative among the hostages.

The INQUIRER source insisted the family could barely raise the P1.5 million. What more the amount of P10 million?

Is she or isn't she?

Earlier INQUIRER reports identified Basilan Provincial Health Officer Dr. Huda Lim as the "conduit" for payments to the Abu Sayyaf.

Lim has denied involvement saying she was busy attending to her duties as health officer and in managing her English and Arabic school for elementary pupils in Isabela, Basilan.

Lim is perceived to have close ties with the Abu Sayyaf because she had been tapped last year to check on the condition of the hostages in Sulu and Basilan. But Lim said she was only performing her job, no more no less.

But there was one curious detail.

Both the conduits for the families of the victims and the Abu Sayyaf reportedly asked for an additional P1 million on June 15.

It was also the day the INQUIRER published a story on the release of two hostages. But the hostages, Ganzon and Uy, showed up only two days later. Another source confirmed only P5 million went to the ASG. The conduits may have waited to receive the P1 million before delivering the ransom money to the ASG.

The question is: Who got the P1 million?

The conduits both for the kidnappers and the relatives are also asking P10 million for mobilization expenses.

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PNOC Petrochemical Development Corporation

Gloria: Nani can't serve as negotiator

(From page A1)

a conservative P1 million per battalion on a weekly basis," the officer said.

Perez said he was willing to talk to the Abu Sayyaf only if Ms Macapagal authorized him to.

He said the President and the Cabinet deemed the act of sending a Cabinet official to negotiate with the Abu Sayyaf as "glorifying" the bandit group.

"It can be handled by those in the lower Cabinet level," he said, adding that the Abu Sayyaf would have to deal with William Castillo, the government-designated negotiator.

Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao announced Monday that the Abu Sayyaf had sent a letter through Ganzon.

The letter supposedly stated that the Abu Sayyaf released Ganzon and hostage Kimberly Jao Uy "unconditionally," but that there should be a "reopening of talks" with the government through Perez.

It was supposedly written by Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani on June 14, two days after the group's spokesperson Abu Sabaya announced through the Radio Mindanao Network that American hostage Guillermo Sobero had been beheaded as an "Independence Day gift" to the President.

But National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said it could not be confirmed if Janjalani had indeed written the letter.

Asked if the government's rejection of the request could jeopardize the lives of the remaining hostages, Perez said: "It's a position that the government has taken. Aside from that, I have no training whatsoever as a negotiator."

Later in an ambush interview, he said he could not say why the Abu Sayyaf asked for him in particular.

"I was probably selected because of my high profile," he told reporters with a smile.

The President yesterday named Perez head of the National Anti-Crime Council.

Pressure

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, spokesperson of the Armed Forces, said the bandits were "feeling the pressure" in the field.

"We cannot allow them to escape . . . They must be exterminated," Adan told radio station dzMM.

According to the anonymous military officer, the estimated P8-million weekly outlay for ground troops covers food, ammunition, petroleum, oil and lubricants, and other requirements.

A soldier's subsistence allowance is P60 a day. A battalion is composed of 300-600 officers and men.

At a full strength of 600, a battalion requires a weekly outlay of P252,000 for food. Troops are also given prepacked MREs (meals ready-to-eat) during operations.

A bullet for an M-16 rifle costs about P10, roughly the same cost of a single round for an M-14 rifle, the officer noted.

"In a brief engagement of, say, 15 minutes, one rifleman can fire off half of his basic load of 360 rounds," he said, adding that troops on patrol also expended ammunition for "reconnaissance fire."

Soldiers are also equipped with grenades and M-60 machineguns.

An M-35 truck, the workhorse of the infantry, can guzzle up to 300 liters of fuel a day. Armored fighting vehicles consume more.

A battalion normally has three to five M-35 trucks. It has the same number of armored vehicles, which are equipped with 50 cal machineguns whose rounds are more expensive than those for the basic M-16 rifle.

A single round for a 90 mm recoilless rifle costs about P5,000.

A round for a 105 mm howitzer costs P25,000, although military officials claim that the AFP is not using heavy guns in the operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

For last year's all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Central Mindanao, the military claimed to have spent about P1.3 billion, covering the period between January and July.

But observers said the amount spent was understated.

'Prayer power'

The President has summoned the "prayer power" of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin to help her administration put an end to the hostage crisis.

She admitted that the problem had caused the peso to breach the P52 level against the dollar, which was why, she said, her administration needed to address the matter resolutely.

Sin, a moving force in People Power I and II, led a "prayer for the Cabinet" during the 10 a.m. Cabinet meeting at the Palace yesterday.

He prayed that the President be protected from the "demonic lies and pressures" that she was facing in the battle with the Abu Sayyaf.

The President said she intended to make it a tradition to have religious leaders and groups pray over her and the Cabinet during their weekly meetings.

"Prayer power is not something to make light of. I really believe in prayer," said Ms Macapagal, who begins her day with an 8 a.m. Mass at the Palace chapel.

She said she told Presidential Management Staff chief Vicky Garchitorena last week that they should not be praying among themselves.

"Let us have other people pray for and over us," the President told reporters. "We started that practice today with Cardinal Sin praying. Next week we will invite another person or group to pray for the Cabinet and the country."

Before he prayed over the Cabinet, Sin said he had come to express his full and unconditional support for what the President had been doing.

"We are going through some very difficult times," he said, addressing the President. "You have called on the Filipino people for support. We are here to tell you: We are right behind you. You are on the right track."

He said he was pleased that the President had the Blessed Sacrament exposed for adoration in Malacañang as a means of invoking God's help in the challenges she was facing.

Protection

The cardinal prayed for wisdom and fortitude for the President.

"Protect her from demonic lies and pressures. Bless also her family and advisers. Use them to bring reconciliation and healing to political wounds, so that we may become one nation under God," he said, adding:

"Give our President and all those who work with her calmness in the face of storms, encouragement in the face of frustration, and humility in the face of success. Give them the wisdom to know and do what is right, and the courage to say no to all that is wrong and evil."

Sin prayed for the people in Mindanao, especially the Abu Sayyaf hostages and their families, the soldiers, and other victims of violence and conflict in the strife-torn region.

"May You be their strength and companion during these trying moments," he said. "May Your peace finally dwell in our land." ***With reports from Norman Bordadora, Cathy C. Yamsuan, AFP***

Jinggoy wants more free time

(From page A1)

day temporary freedom was not enough.

On his first day of temporary liberty, Estrada said his lawyers would ask the Sandiganbayan for an extension to allow him to finish his term as mayor of his hometown on June 30.

"It is really impossible for me to finish all my work in five days. There are just so many problems to attend to," said Jinggoy, pointing to the thick pile of documents on his desk.

He added that he wanted to stay until his half-brother, JV Ejercito, takes over on July 1.

"Having been mayor for nine years and vice mayor for four years, it is just proper for me to spend my last day in office bidding farewell to the people of San Juan," said the mayor, who was accused of plunder along with his father.

The young Estrada expressed regret that he would not be able to work on the dubbing of his unfinished movie with young actress Judy Ann Santos, "Walang Iwanan . . . Peksman."

The movie was supposed to have been shown in January, but was pulled out at the height of the political crisis after his father's ouster.

The Sandiganbayan granted the young Estrada temporary liberty on the condition that his movements be "strictly limited" between his house and the San Juan Municipal Hall and that he be brought back to Fort. Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, not later than 5 p.m. of June 24.

"We have finished shooting the movie a long time ago, but we're not yet done with the dubbing. That will just have to wait," the actor-mayor said of the movie, which was produced by his own Millennium Films.

But while there seemed to be a lot of work that he wanted to accomplish, the mayor vowed to follow the court order "to the letter."

"I will be back in Fort Sto. Domingo before my 5 p.m. deadline on Sunday. *Makiki-fiesta lang ako sa umaga*," he said, referring to the feast of San Juan's patron saint, St. John the Baptist.

Omnibus motion

Yesterday, the Estradas through counsel Rene Saguisag filed an omnibus motion asking the Sandiganbayan's 3rd Division for "at least" a 30-day house arrest to enable them to prepare their defense prior to their arraignment.

The motion asked that the Estradas be "allowed to inspect and copy all documents and evidence in the possession of the prosecution, before arraignment, and that they be given ample time to prepare at home on a house-arrest basis for at least 30 days."

Saguisag also asked the court that all state prosecutors and their witnesses, particularly "Juetengate" whistleblower Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, be "gagged" from discussing the charges against the Estradas in venues other than the court and the Office of the Ombudsman.

Saguisag then requested that a "trial with assessors" be conducted. It is a trial wherein selected members of the community will sit with the judge and advise him on the determination of all questions of fact involved in the case.

Also yesterday, a lawyers group blasted the Sandiganbayan for allowing Jinggoy to spend five days outside his jail cell.

The Equal Justice for All Movement (E-Just) said the Sandiganbayan June 18 ruling contradicted the court's June 9 resolution refusing Jinggoy's petition for house arrest.

E-Just member Leonard de Vera recalled that the Sandiganbayan had said in its resolution that granting the mayor and his father house arrest was not authorized by law.

"If the law does not authorize house arrest, as the Sandiganbayan ruled on June 9, 2001, where in the law did the same court find its authority, per ruling of June 18, 2001 granting Jinggoy a house arrest in his house in San Juan?" De Vera asked.

De Vera said E-Just "is greatly disturbed with the Sandiganbayan third division's inconsistent rulings. E-Just is even more disturbed that the (Office of the) Ombudsman filed no objection nor opposition to Jinggoy's request for 'house arrest."

De Vera said that in effect, the Ombudsman agreed to Mayor Estrada's house arrest "which is also inconsistent with the previous official position taken by the Ombudsman opposing house arrest to the Estradas. What is going on?"

Desierto admits oversight

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto admitted the oversight. But he said government prosecutors filed a motion for partial reconsideration yesterday afternoon asking that Mayor Estrada be made to return to his jail cell during the evenings of his five-day temporary freedom.

Desierto added that when the motion asking that Mayor Estrada be allowed five days to clean his desk was filed, "we only understood that it was for the purpose of the turnover. We were not informed he was also to go home. Our people did not know that."

Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia, San Juan police chief, said he and his men arrived at the VMMC to fetch the mayor as early as 7 a.m. The group, however, was not able to leave until 10 a.m.

Welcomed by wife and children

From the hospital, Estrada proceeded to his residence on Kennedy Street, North Greenhills Subdivision in San Juan where he was welcomed by his wife Precy and two of their three children.

The mayor then dropped by the house of his Lola Mary, mother of the former President, who lives on the same street.

A band greeted the mayor outside the municipal hall. Inside, the sound system played "Tie a Yellow Ribbon" as some 200 supporters and local government employees feasted on a sumptuous lunch.

Jinggoy also offered a wreath at the monument of Jose Rizal beside the Agora Market, in celebration of the national hero's birthday.

"I am both happy and sad. It's nice to see the people of San Juan but it's also sad that I would not be able to stay long enough to finish what I have come to do," he said.

He added that he was "overwhelmed" by the emotional welcome he was given by his supporters. "I thank them for their prayers, words of encouragement and show of support."

Jinggoy said he was planning to dismantle his photographs on the walls of the mayor's office, in preparation for incoming Mayor JV Ejercito's assumption of office. But Jinggoy said he would leave the portraits of his father when the latter was still president.

The trial of the Estradas starts next week.

Best to keep Erap in hospital

Doctors told the Sandiganbayan yesterday it would be best to keep the deposed President in the military hospital as he awaits the start of his corruption trial.

Estrada, 64, has been confined at the VMMC since May 12 for treatment of bronchitis and emphysema, but the court has indicated it wants him moved back to a special prison home after rejecting his bid to be placed under house arrest.

He faces the death penalty if found guilty of plunder in a trial which starts on June 27.

VMMC director Salvador Flores and department of medicine chief Librado Casison told the court in a memorandum released yesterday that "the former President at present is deemed physically fit to travel."

But while the court "may order his transfer to another facility anytime, it can be said from a medical viewpoint that the terrain and the layout of the VMMC complex may provide a physical and psychological environment conducive to the enhancement of his clinical improvement."

Month-long tests on Estrada confirmed doctors' suspicions that he suffered from "chronic obstructive pulmonary disease," the memorandum said.

It said doctors recommended that Estrada make use of broncho dilators, quit smoking, and avoid "environmental factors that can trigger acute exacerbation and contribute to progression of disease."

The court is expected to issue a final ruling later this week on whether to send Estrada back to the prison home in Santa Rosa, Laguna. ***With a report from AFP***

Safe-conduct pass for Robot turned down

(From page A1)

Sipadan. The hostages were released after payment of ransom amounting to hundreds of millions of pesos.

The President said Singson was applying for a safe-conduct pass for an emissary who was to meet with Andang to set the date and place of his surrender to the government.

She said the military was deliberating on whether such a pass for Singson's emissary could jeopardize the ongoing military operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Malacañang officials refused to say who the emissary was, and why he would need a safe-conduct pass.

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for the President, has confirmed Singson's statement that, through the governor's efforts, Andang and 17 followers were set to "return to the fold of the law."

But in Cotabato City, Gov. Nur Misuari of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao said the government should not believe Andang.

"I know Commander Robot, he will not surrender," Misuari said.

Misuari also assailed the government for using ex-rebels of the Moro National Liberation Front in Sulu in the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

"It is not in the 1996 peace agreement that integrees will be used to track down terrorists," he said.

The MNLF, which Misuari chairs, signed a peace agreement with the government in 1996. A provision in the agreement stipulates the integration of some MNLF members into the military and police forces.

Arrest

Reacting to Andang's supposed request for a safe-conduct pass as a condition for his surrender, the spokesperson of the Armed Forces said the military wanted to arrest the bandit leader as soon as he turned himself in to government emissaries.

"Commander Robot is a wanted criminal . . . so our position is if he surrenders, he has to answer all charges against him," Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said at a news conference. "We don't agree that he should roam Metro Manila and the malls. We want to arrest him and have him answer for his crimes."

Adan also said the military was strongly opposed to the grant of amnesty to Andang.

According to Adan, the AFP's Southern Command can only issue a safe-conduct pass to allow the bandit leader to travel from his base in Talipao, Sulu, to the nearest military camp in the province, where he will be immediately placed under arrest.

"Upon reaching a military camp, Commander Robot must submit himself to the judicial process and face the charges against him," Adan said.

Andang has been the supposed target of continuing military operations since September last year, when the AFP launched an all-out campaign against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu.

Asked why the military could not arrest him and do away with negotiations for his surrender, Adan said: "That's what we're trying to do."

Adan noted that while the military knew Andang's location, government forces had so far failed to bag him.

Authority

The President has authorized Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling to deal with the terms of Andang's supposed plan to surrender.

Adan said Camiling was "only agreeing to issue a safe-conduct pass to ensure (Andang's) safety from his base to a military camp so he won't be intercepted by the military and police."

"Commander Robot must answer for his crimes last year," Adan said, referring to the Sipadan abductions.

There is a P5-million bounty for Andang, like other ranking Abu Sayyaf leaders in Sulu and Basilan.

"In the interest of justice, he must not be allowed to go lightly," Adan said. "He will be detained."

Adan said the bandit leader was planning to make use of the millions of pesos he earned in ransom payments to fend off legal prosecution. *Reports from Juliet L. Javellana, Carlito Pablo and Dona Pazzibugan in Manila; Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GMA sees . . .

(From page A1)

Mary Grace Rosagas turned up at her home in Ayala Heights, Quezon City, before dawn on Tuesday—17 hours after she, her driver and a bodyguard were abducted by men wearing police uniforms at the nearby University of the Philippines campus in Diliman.

Her family, however, would not talk to the police or the press. Rosagas is the daughter of Robert Cheng, owner of Uratex Philippines Inc. and noted golf patron.

The abduction "could be part of a sinister plot to destabilize my government," Ms Macapagal told a news conference in Malacañang.

"It appears that they (abductors) were not after ransom, they just want to make the impression that kidnapping is widespread in Manila."

Local tourism is already reeling from the activities of the Abu Sayyaf, a group of Moro bandits who seized 20 people, including three Americans, from an upscale Palawan resort last month. The bandits claimed to have executed one American hostage.

The peso fell to a month low of 52.35 to the US dollar on Tuesday and the stock market dropped 1.5 percent partly in reaction to the kidnappings. *(See related story in Business, Page B1.)*

Ms Macapagal said she had received "very disturbing" reports about the identity of the group that abducted Rosagas.

"I am ordering the Philippine National Police to go after the leader of this (group) and intensify the campaign against kidnapping," Ms Macapagal said without naming her suspects.

Uncooperative

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Tor, director of the Central Police District, said the family of Rosagas refused to give details about how she was released.

An INQUIRER source at the CPD, however, said there seemed to be "a cover-up" on the part of Rosagas' family.

"They are now making it appear that there was no kidnapping at all. The kidnappers must have frightened the family," he added.

According to the source, the family cooperated with the police after Rosagas was abducted in front of the UP College of Law on Osmeña Avenue about 7:30 a.m. on Monday.

A white Mitsubishi Adventure van blocked Rosagas' red Mercedes Benz sedan while a blue Toyota Corolla car pulled over behind.

Three men in police uniforms and armed with Armalite rifles handcuffed Rosagas, her driver and a bodyguard and forced them into the van.

Lina's theory

Interior Secretary Jose Lina said Rosagas was returned to her family about 1 a.m. Monday.

"This is a different kind of kidnapping. It's so fast . . . Usually, it takes time (to work out the release of a victim). So there's more than meets the eye," Lina said.

"We are trying to establish if this is really a kidnapping incident or part and parcel of an overall grand design to destabilize the government," Lina told the same news conference.

"It is unfortunate that there are destabilizers out there who want to see our government embarrassed," he added.

Lina declined to name the leader of the kidnap group, but he described him as "a member of the opposition who had links to the previous administration.

Lina noted that Robert Cheng was "a close friend and financier of this opposition leader who provided him with security for a long time."

"Definitely, the person is from the opposition. We will unmask him and tell the world who he is as soon as we have the evidence," he said.

Superbody

During the news conference, Ms Macapagal said she would be signing in a few days an executive order creating the National Anti-Crime Council to be headed by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

"Its basic purpose is coordination of intelligence and operations in support of our anti-crime, anti-terrorist policy," she said.

The council will be made up of representatives of the Department of Justice, Department of Interior and Local Governments, and the Department of National Defense.

Leaders of the Chinese-Filipino and Muslim communities as well as officers of nongovernment organizations will also be invited to join the council.

Last week, police admitted that Singaporean businessmen had also become prime targets for kidnappers in Metro Manila.

According to reports, four Singaporeans have been abducted since April. But details of the abductions were made known only when the wife of businessman Roger Yeo Cheow Meng admitted to having paid his kidnappers S$300,000 (P8.4 million) in ransom money. He was held in captivity for nine days while his kidnappers negotiated with his wife through the telephone.

The Macapagal administration has made it a policy not to negotiate with kidnappers or pay them ransom, even as it admits that it is powerless to prevent families of kidnap victims from complying. *With reports from Philip Tubeza, AFP and Reuters*

Basileños resort to 'hamurabi'

(From page A1)

almost half of Lantawan's 35 barangays. Their major strongholds are Barangays Bulanza, Lantawan proper, Baungis, Upper Manggas and Kanibungan.

"These villages are already no-man's land. No ordinary civilians live them anymore," Ismael told the INQUIRER.

Based on reports from barangay officials, Ismael said the bandits started to encroach on areas where residents were quite complacent and civilian volunteers or militia forces were not fully armed.

"In our assessment, the bandits have already entered at least 18 barangays. Their area is becoming bigger because of the ransom money paid for the release of the hostages," Ismael said.

The mayor was referring to reports that the families of some of the people seized by another bandit group, led by Abu Sabaya, from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan, had paid ransom for the release of their loved ones.

Ismael said she had received reports that the bandits have penetrated even the island of Lubukan with a number of recruits.

The recruits were reportedly given P30,000 each and high-powered firearms.

"The money is directly given to the families of those who joined the bandits," she said.

Col. Alexander Yano, Task Force Zamboanga chief, said that he had received persistent reports of the Abu Sayyaf's presence in some coastal barangays in Zamboanga City.

"We have intensified patrols on land and sea by our Special Forces Battalion," he said.

Yano said not all of the bandits who have fled to this city were armed. Their errand boys and emissaries dress ordinarily and can easily come and go, he added.

"This (patrol work) is a continuing effort of the military," Yano said.

'No comment'

The Radio Mindanao Network has refused to comment on a move by the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters sa Pilipinas to impose a sanction on its local radio station for allegedly allowing the Abu Sayyaf to use its facilities for propaganda.

"No comment," said RMN station manager Rey Bayugin, adding that the RMN's head office in Manila would be issuing a statement.

He said the radio station was not bothered by negative comments about its airing of statements from Abu Sabaya. "It hurts, but this is the nature of our work," he said.

Bayugin had earlier stressed that the radio station was merely doing public service and that it had been instrumental in facilitating talks between the bandits and the government.

RMN's facilities, he said, have also been helpful in staying the execution of the Abu Sayyaf of its American captive, Jeffrey Schilling, a few months ago by setting communication lines between the government and the bandits.

Schilling escaped during a military attack on an Abu Sayyaf base in Sulu.

FILIPINO FUND, INC.

Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Filipino Fund, Inc. will be held on Thursday, June 21, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. at the Main Dining, 28/F BPI Buendia Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Calling of meeting to order.
2. Certification of notice.
3. Determination and declaration of quorum.
4. Reading and approval of the minutes of the Annual Stockholders Meeting held on May 09, 2000.
5. Presentation and approval of the Annual Report and other reports of the Investment Manager.
6. Approval and confirmation of all acts of the Board of Directors and of Management during the past year.
7. Election of Directors.
8. Re-appointment of BPI Investment Management, Inc. ("BIMI") as the Investment Manager of the Fund.
9. Re-appointment of External Auditors.
10. Other Business.
11. Adjournment.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on February 28, 2001, the record date fixed by the Board of Directors, are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, said meeting.

Admission to the meeting will be by Stockholder's Identification cards only. If you are a stockholder of record and plan to attend, please bring the Stockholder's Identification Card, attached to the Proxy Form/Voting Ticket, which will admit you to the meeting. If you are a stockholder whose shares are held through an intermediary such as a bank or broker and you plan to attend, you may request a Stockholder's Identification Card by writing to the Office of the Secretary, 26/F BPI Buendia (Far East Bank) Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Evidence/certification of your ownership, which you can obtain from your bank, broker, etc., must accompany your letter.

In order that your stock may be represented at the meeting in case you are not personally present, please complete, sign and date the proxy/voting instruction card sent to you and return it promptly using the accompanying addressed envelope.

For the Board of Directors,

JO ANN B. EALA
Head, BPI Investment Management, Inc.
As Investment Manager of Filipino Fund, Inc.

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Routes	ONE-WAY Normal Fares	ONE-WAY Value Fares	ONE-WAY 2-Day Advance Purchase Fares
BACOLOD-CEBU vice-versa	P1,599	P1,399	P1,299
ILOILO-CEBU vice-versa	P1,799	P1,599	P1,499
MANILA/ROXAS vice-versa	P2,279	P1,979	P1,799
CEBU/DAVAO vice-versa	P2,339	P2,039	
CEBU/ZAMBOANGA vice-versa	P2,388	P2,089	
ZAM/DAVAO vice-versa	P2,388	P2,089	
MANILA/BACOLOD vice-versa	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
MANILA/ILOILO vice-versa	P2,498	P2,199	
MANILA/CEBU vice-versa	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999
MANILA/TACLOBAN vice-versa	P2,718	P2,419	
MANILA/KALIBO vice-versa	P2,608	P2,309	
MANILA/DUMAGUETE vice-versa	P2,608	P2,309	
MANILA/CAGAYAN de ORO vice-versa	P3,295	P2,919	P2,399
MANILA/DAVAO vice-versa	P3,307	P2,919	
MANILA/ZAMBOANGA vice-versa	P3,295	P2,639	
ILOILO/DAVAO vice-versa	P3,295	P2,839	P2,549

1. All tickets are **REFUNDABLE, REROUTABLE** and **UPGRADABLE** to valid higher fare types. All issued tickets are **NON-TRANSFERRABLE.**
2. Booking and rebooking requirements for 2-Day Advance Purchase fares must strictly be adhered to. (Closed booking required)
3. Fares Travel Validity: **From June 13-October 12, 2001.**
4. Last Selling Date: **October 10, 2001.**
5. Child, senior citizen and student discounts will not apply on these fares.
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US OPEN PLAYOFF

Goosen beats Brooks by 2

TULSA, Oklahoma—Now that Retief Goosen is the US Open champion, he can laugh about one of the greatest gaffes in golf history.

The soft-spoken South African redeemed himself with rock-solid play to take a lead so commanding that he could afford another three-putt on the 18th green to win the 18-hole playoff against Mark Brooks.

But Goosen eliminated any suspense by rolling in a 6-foot (1.8-meter) putt for bogey that gave him an even-par 70 and a two-stroke victory at Southern Hills.

"I kept my nerves together, and I've finally done it," Goosen said.

Haunted by a three-putt from 12 feet (3.6 meters) that cost him the championship in regulation, a determined Goosen was golden to the end.

The fictionlike finish Sunday gave way to a rout in the playoff, with two-shot swings on Nos. 9 and 10 that gave Goosen a five-stroke lead throughout much of the back nine.

Of all things, it was his putting—where was that on the 18th hole Sunday?—that made him the US Open champion.

"I made everything I looked at," he said.

He took only 12 putts on his first 10 holes, and faced with a tough chip on the slope to the 18th green, Goosen removed any risk by blasting his putter about 100 feet (30 meters) up the hill and onto the green, about 25 feet (7.5 meters) away.

The par putt was well short. Still, he needed only two putts from 6 feet (1.8 meters) to win.

Sound familiar?

Goosen wanted to avoid a repeat of Sunday's performance. His bogey putt was pure and dropped in the heart of the cup. Brooks then made his 4-foot (1.2-meter) putt for par.

"I wasn't going to run by it again," Goosen said. "I knew Mark was going to make 4 from where he was. I just wanted to make 5 and get out of here."

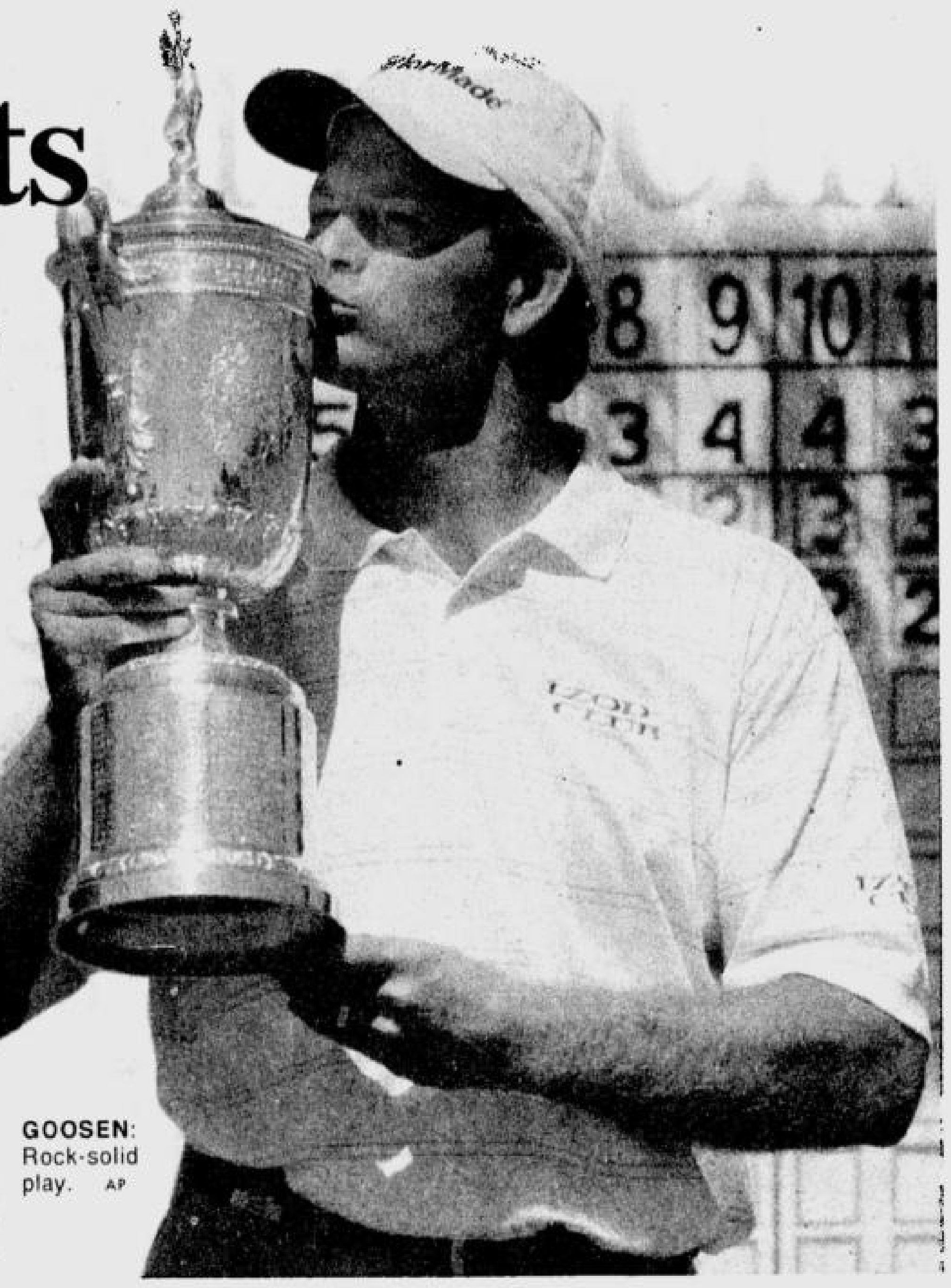
He leaves as the US Open champion no one could have expected. This was supposed to be about Tiger Woods going for a fifth straight major.

"At the beginning of the week, I thought, 'It suits Tiger ... . He's going to win it easy,'" Goosen said.

Instead, Woods finished seven strokes out of the lead for his worst showing in the last 10 majors, a tie for 12th.

Goosen, whose career almost ended 15 years ago when he was struck by lightning, went from a journeyman to a champion over five days that felt much longer.

Goosen earned $900,000, nearly as much as his best season on the European tour, and became only the second international player in the past 20 years to win the US Open. The other was fellow South African and good friend Ernie Els, who won in 1994 and 1997. *AP*



GOOSEN: Rock-solid play. AP

Negros faces LBC Batangas

By Roy Luarca

THE NEGROS Slashers put their winning streak and leadership on the line when they tangle with the LBC Batangas Blades at 5:30 p.m. today at the University of St. La Salle Gym in Bacolod City.

Propped up by a 4-0 start in the MBA First Phase, the Slashers' morale will further be boosted by the tremendous support being provided by the Negrenses.

The Blades, on the other hand, are raring to bounce back from a 96-90 beating dealt them by the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems in Cebu City Sunday night.

"That loss might as well be a confidence-check for us. It showed that every game won't come easy," said Batangas coach Nash Racela of the Blades' first defeat in four games. "During our practice on Saturday, I saw that all my players were focused."

Racela's main worry is the aggressiveness of the Slashers, especially when playing in their homecourt.

Nueva Ecija battles Socsargen in the 3 p.m. opener at the Araullo Gym in Cabanatuan City.

The Patriots have yet to win in two starts, while the Marlins are at the cellar with three straight losses.

Meanwhile, MBA Commissioner Ogie Narvasa has viewed the tape of the controversial Andok's San Juan-Cebuana Lhuillier tussle in Cebu City Friday night and will come up with a decision after hearing the side of the Knights, whom he summoned to appear before him at 10 a.m. today.

MBA FIRST PHASE

Standings	W	L
Negros	4	0
Cebuana Lhuillier	4	1
LBC Batangas	3	1
Andok's S. Juan	3	2
FedEx Laguna	0	2
Nueva Ecija	0	2
Socsargen	0	3
Davao	0	3

GAMES TODAY
Araullo Gym (Cabanatuan City)
3:00 p.m.—Socsargen vs Nueva Ecija
USLS Gym (Bacolod City)
5:30 p.m.—LBC Batangas vs Negros

SPORTSWATCH

278 athletes make it

A TOTAL of 278 athletes have already passed the grade for the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games in September. And with aspirants in wushu, weightlifting, boxing, cycling, gymnastics and men's volleyball in the thick of their qualifying tournaments, the Philippine delegation is expected to balloon to 381 prior to the June 30 deadline for the submission of lineups. Steve Hontiveros, POC SEAG Task Force chief, said there are 103 aspirants more but a financial shortage would be far-fetched even if these athletes qualify for the biennial meet. Meanwhile, the PSC has tapped Russian psychologist Genadi Gorvonov to toughen the mental ability of the athletes bound for the SEAG. *June Navarro*

Santos 10-under champ

DAVAO—El Santo Santos outclassed Ernesto Pantua, 6-4, 2-6, 6-0, to bag the unisex 10-under division title at the close of the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 Monday at the Flores Village Tennis Club here. Ralph Barte stopped Santos from scoring a double celebration following a 6-3, 1-0 ret. victory in the boys' 12-under bracket of the Adidas netfest organized by the CTW and supported by Milo and PTV-4 Saturday weekly show Sports Kids. Santos and Barte shared the limelight with Roel Rubillar, Ed Angelo Diez, Hamza Macapendeg, Ma. Cristina Serrano, Patty Adaza, Mary Ann Lui and Joyce Haro. On hand to award the Adidas trophies were Philta RVP Titong Cansino, FVTC president Aurello Sevellano and Ecoland president Menchie Gomez.

Manila swim meet set

AS part of the celebration of Araw ng Maynila, the Manila Seahawks Swimming Team will host the 2nd Araw ng Maynila Swimming Championship 2001 on June 23 at the Rizal Memorial swimming pool. Opening ceremonies will be led by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, according to club president Alex Alcantara and Manila Sports Council chair Vic Bartolome. The event is part of the ongoing Luzon Swimming League organized by meet director and veteran coach Bert Lozada. Deadline of submission of entries is on Thursday, June 21.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: Wimbledon Official Film 1998 at 7 a.m. (r), 1999 at 8 p.m. (r – midnight) on Star Sports
ATP Stella Artois Championships, Quarterfinals at 9 p.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: U.S. Open Golf Championship, Final Round at 8 a.m. (r) on ESPN, Second Round Highlights at 1 p.m on Star Sports and 10:30 p.m. on ESPN
Senior PGA - The Countrywide Tradition, Third Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
LPGA Evian Masters, First Round at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN
BASEBALL: Baseball Max at 5 p.m. on ESPN
MOTOR SPORTS: International Motorsport News 2001 at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

LA Lakers more talented

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

HAIL to the Los Angeles Lakers, who successfully defended their NBA crown by trouncing the gritty but banged-up Philadelphia 76ers, four games to one, in the recently concluded best-of-seven NBA Finals.

The 76ers took the series opener (107-101 in overtime) in Los Angeles, handing the Lakers their first loss after 12 playoff games and, as it turned out, their lone setback in this year's postseason.

The Lakers, though, bounced back to capture the next four games (98-89 in Game Two) including the final three (96-91, 100-86 and 108-96) at Philadelphia's hostile First Union Center, and complete a historic back-to-back championship run that was preceded by a 4-2 decision over the Indiana Pacers in the 2000 NBA Finals.

Philadelphia showed a lot of heart, character, resiliency and toughness in the highly charged title series. But El-Ay possessed the same qualities—and more. The Hollywood City squad also had more talent and athleticism and the healthy bodies as well, unlike the 76ers who only had a one-man wrecking crew in MVP Allen Iverson and were riddled by injuries to four starters (including Iverson) and top two reserves.

Both sides had role players who stepped up with a crucial play or clutch shot, but it was the Lakers' shocktroopers who did the most damage. Reserve forward Robert Horry knocked in 12 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter and scored the Lakers' final seven points in the last 47 seconds of Game Three as a replacement of fouled-out center Shaquille O'Neal. In the fourth game, 37-year-old guard Ron Harper, seldom utilized because of his chronic knee woes, came off the bench to provide the Lakers with a steadying influence and stave off a late rally by the Sixers in Game Four while contributing eight points, four rebounds and two assists in 16 minutes.

First-string playmaker Derek Fisher, the Lakers' No. 3 leading scorer behind Kobe Bryant and O'Neal through the club's 11-0 run in the first three rounds of the playoffs with a 15.1-point clip, redeemed himself from a sub-par effort (zero points) in the opening-game loss with double-figure scoring support in the second, fourth and fifth games, including a 6-for-8 clip from beyond three-point range (6-for-12 from the field overall) for 18 points in the series clincher.

Fisher and speedy Tyronn Lue, who earned the 12th and last berth on the Lakers' playoff roster over problem-filled guard Isaiah Rider, also played tough defense against the quicksilver Iverson.

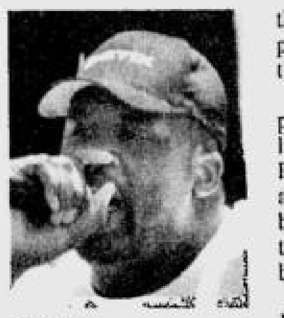
Glen, Carl rule motocross leg

ORMOC City—Defending champion Glen Aguilar of Caltex-KTM dominated the pro open category as expected, but Carl Poculan of Shell-Yamaha stole the limelight with another triple victory in the fifth leg of the National Motocross Super Series 2001: A Race of Ormoc and PLDT at the Ormoc Sports Complex.

Aguilar defeated the Shell-Yamaha threesome of Ernie and Jing Leongson and Weng Yapparcon to take the lead in the pro open category in this seven-part series organized by Harteebest Entertainment Corp. and sponsored by Bench, Yamaha, PLDT, Smart-ZED, Access Plus, Transtainer System and Dreambike and Agua Vida.

The former basketball player-turned-motocross rider, who trained extensively in the United States, upped his total to 194 points after five legs against Leongson's 145 points.

We'll go for 3-peat–Shaq



O'NEAL

LOS ANGELES—Shaquille O'Neal kicked off the Los Angeles Lakers' second straight NBA championship parade Monday with a promise to thousands of fans to do it again next year.

"We're going to three-peat," O'Neal announced in opening ceremonies on the steps of the Department of Water and Power.

"We told you all last year we were going to do it again," O'Neal's teammate Kobe Bryant said. "We did it. You've got to holler at that."

Throngs of fans lined the parade route from the civic center area to Staples Center. Some perched in trees and leaned out from parking garages to catch a glimpse of the players and their families. Office workers mixed with schoolchildren clad in gold-and-purple Lakers jerseys. Vendors hawked Lakers pennants and beaded necklaces as the sound of people tooting purple plastic horns filled the air.

The party had been expected to start 45 minutes late because outgoing Mayor Richard Riordan was held up at Central Library, which was being named after him. But the delay only turned out to be about 15 minutes.

Riordan and Mayor-elect James Hahn jointly declared Monday Los Angeles Lakers Day in the city.

"If I get eight years, I want eight national championships," Hahn added.

Police Chief Bernard Parks thanked fans for celebrating Friday's victory responsibly and avoiding the kind of destructive melee that marred the team's championship a year ago.

The chief also joked that the Lakers' owners, staff and coach Phil Jackson were being charged with conspiring to win more championships.

"Shaquille O'Neal is being charged with assault and battery for countless acts against NBA centers," Parks added. "Kobe Bryant is being charged for flying without a permit, and the other Lakers who carry the alias The Super Friends are accused of breaking and entering—breaking records and entering the new championship era."

For the NBA champions, it was an encore parade.

This time the 12-block route was marked by purple lines, which crowds were supposed to stay behind. Last year, fans swelled off the sidewalks and slowed the procession to a crawl, sometimes bringing it to a stop.

An estimated quarter-million people lined Figueroa Street for last year's championship parade along a route that may become "Shaq & Kobe Way," since O'Neal is 29 and Bryant is 22 and the two are expected to keep the Lakers in championship contention for years to come. *AP*

Men's record broken

MALAYSIA'S talented bowlers made an impressive debut in the Boysen-PBC 2001 championships Monday by smashing the class O men's team record at Green Valley lanes in Pasig City.

Led by Mazri Effendi and Mustafa Yassin who exploded with two-game series of 486 and 483 pins, respectively, the Malaysians carded 1411 to sink the 1352 mark held by the Philippine trio of Biboy Rivera, Carlo Mansilungan and Botchock Rey.

Effendi put together games of 267 and 219 while Yassin shot 215 and 268.

All other marks in the kegfest sponsored by Boysen Paints and Philippine Sports Commission and supported by Goldilocks, Filkor, Prima Pasta, Bowlmart and Storm products remained intact, however, despite the participation of bowlers form six other countries, namely, Chinese Taipei, Guam, Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

Purvis Granger, the American coach of the RP team, and Hong Kong's Rocky Hui combined for 914 pins to produce one of only two other worthy performances Monday.

Granger fired 468 (258-210) while Hui added 446 (223-223) as they checked in behind TBAM's Arnold Lecaros and Tyrone Ongpauco (973) in the class O men's doubles competition.

Indonesia's Inge Nio rolled a four-game series of 823 but this was only good for third place in class A ladies' singles, behind the 847 of Menchu Bautista and 827 of Trixie de Luna.

MJC EVENT

Gran Copa racefest on

THE MANILA Jockey Club, Inc. unwraps the 22nd Gran Copa de Manila Racing Festival with an impressive lineup of races starting today at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Formal launching of the event was held yesterday at the MJCI Turf Room where top officials from the host club, Manila Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna, GAB Commissioner Ashley Arayata, Jr., officials of the various racing associations and the event's major sponsors attended.

"The staging of the Gran Copa de Manila is indeed an opportune occasion for us to renew our commitment to provide our patrons and direct players with an ideal venue to showcase the best in local racing," said MJCI executive vice president and chief operating officer Roberto R. Reverente, who represented MJCI president Alfonso R. Reyno, Jr.

Highlight of the five-day racing festival is the Gran Copa de Manila Day on June 24 during which the running of the two-division serves as the main attractions.

Champion galloper Wind Blown, the former pride of sportsman-businessman Sandy Javier, heads the elite field set to dispute the P600,000 guaranteed prize in Division I.

Challenging Wind Blown are seasoned stakes campaigners like Gold Edition, Materials Fuertes, Project Genesis, Staunch Ally and Super Sharp. Real estate developer Sta. Lucia Realty and Development, Inc. will be the main presenter of Division I.

In Division II, 12 gallopers will contest the P300,000 first prize pot. They are Bull Rider, District Three, Golden Eagle, Gutmoore, Hyperbid, My Preperido, Noble Regent, Palace Hero, Sparkling Sky, Power Drive, Sis Boom Bah and Speed Goddess.

Sales for this year's staging is expected to reach P36.23 million. Last year's event grossed a record P35.33 million. *EV*

American expat tops Carmona karting series

AMERICAN expatriate Lee Bumgarner ruled the F125 class after the fifth round of the 2001 Shell Super Kart Championship Series last Sunday at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Carmona, Cavite.

As the frontrunners made a run for the lead at the start, Bumgarner drove a steady pace which set him up for the win and fortified his bid for the F125 title.

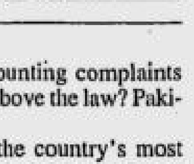
Polesitter Mike Francisco and Bert Neuhaf paid dearly for their aggressive move as they both spun off the track on the very first lap.

International race campaigner Angelo Baretto grabbed the lead and held Bumgarner and Finn Juha Roiha at bay for eleven laps. Lady luck, however, frowned at Baretto as he broke his sprocket with three laps remaining, allowing Bumgarner, Roiha and Ramon Hermosa to pass him and take the top three podium positions.

In the Intercon A Class, Allan Uy claimed his third win in five rounds to regain the upper hand in the points race for the title.

Is online casino above the law?

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

GAMBLING, it goes without saying, is senseless because it destroys the lives of people, particularly the youth who need jobs, not gambling.

That is why I'm taking the side of Sen. Robert Jaworski, chair of the Senate Committee on Games and Amusements, for opposing all sorts of gambling, including the operation of the on-line casino by SAGE (Sports and Games Entertainment Corp.), saying that gambling is addictive and that it is going to hurt society as well.

But it seems that Jaworski and the other members of Congress are powerless in stopping this propensity to promote gambling nowadays. Else how come SAGE reportedly resumed its operation recently even without Congressional approval? Worse, it is even reported as mulling plans to operate full-blast pretty soon despite the mounting complaints against it. Is SAGE above the law? Pakiesplika lang po.

Jaworski, once the country's most celebrated basketball player, needs our support at present in his campaign to protect the people from the evils of gambling. As I wrote earlier, there is nothing to learn from the online casino or Internet gambling, stressing that it would only encourage the promotion of gambling in this strife-torn country.

"This is too much," said then Speaker and now Sen. Manuel Villar who opposed the decision of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. to allow SAGE to operate the online casino. "This (Internet gambling) will definitely have a negative effect on young people. It will only propagate a gambling culture among the youth and should not be encouraged.

On the other hand, Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. said the government's daily take of P60.5 million from legalized gambling should be "enough to satiate its greed for more gambling income and stop the operation of the online casino."

Another congressman, Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, also pointed out that the power to grant gambling franchises rests solely in Congress, not Pagcor and that "any party who wishes to acquire a gaming franchise will have to go to Congress and endure intense debates as it awaits for the franchise to be issued," adding "the tedious process would ensure the people that Congress would not just simply allow more gambling activities to flourish into the mainstream."

The operation of the online casino had met strong objections from the various segments of society, including the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and concerned parents of mostly school children.

"The Catholic Church has always disapproved of any form of gambling," the CBCP said recently. "People know that this is something they should not do. They should realize the value of hard work and know that gambling is not the way to earn money. God does not approve of that."

* * *

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214 or EasyCall 141-26724.

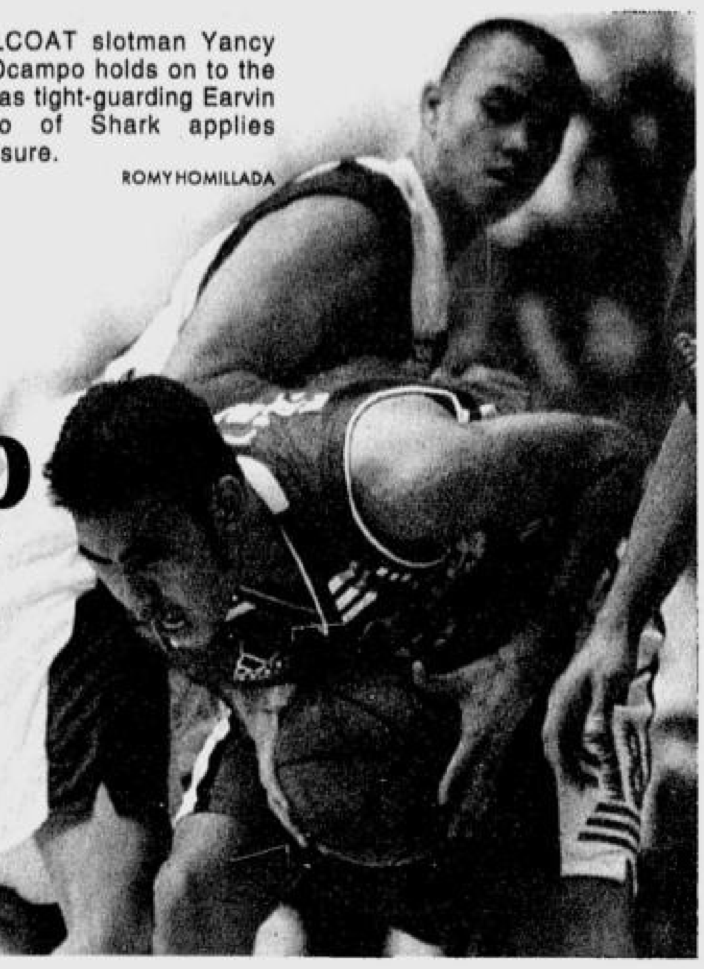
SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Sampras, Hingis top seeds

WIMBLEDON—Pete Sampras may have slipped to five in the world rankings, but he's still No. 1 at Wimbledon. Organizers of the grass court event which starts June 25 ignored the ATP rankings on Monday and named seven-time champion Sampras as the top-seeded player for the men's singles with Andre Agassi as No. 2: In the women's field, Martina Hingis is seeded No. 1, followed by defending champion Venus Williams.

AP



WELCOAT slotman Yancy de Ocampo holds on to the ball as tight-guarding Earvin Sotto of Shark applies pressure.

ROMY HOMILLADA

ANA LANDS 3RD

Welcoat a win shy of sweep

By Dennis Eroa

BRIX Encarnacion and Jojo Manalo finished what Ren Ren Ritualo started as merciless Welcoat Paints harpooned Shark Energy Drink, 73-65, last night to move within a way of retaining the PBL Chairman's Cup title at the Makati Coliseum.

The Paintmasters controlled the tempo of the game right from the opening tip-off and the sweet-shooting Ritualo started the breakaway when he poured eight of his 13 points in the third quarter, giving Welcoat a 52-39 lead.

Shark, which fell 0-3 in the best-of-seven championship series, made its move, 51-52, but fell short when Manalo and Encarnacion combined for 12 points in the final 10 minutes of play.

"I think we're able to force Shark to guess the kind of our plays," said Welcoat coach Junel Baculi as he moved on the threshold of avenging Welcoat's 4-3 loss to Shark in the Challenge Cup.

Welcoat caught Shark flatfooted as it continuously shifted from zone to man-to-man defense. As Ritualo and company boomed from the outside, Yancy de Ocampo, Allen Patrimonio and Derick Canlas held their ground in the shaded lane.

In the first game, Ana Freezers rallied from 17 points down to frustrate GIV Beauty Soap, 97-93, and win the best-of-three series for third place.

Rudy Mendoza's ploy of starting the fourth quarter with a full-court press rattled the Soap Makers, who turned the ball thrice in succession, giving the Freezers Kings headway. Ana won the series, 2-1.

Ana failed to hurdle the eliminations last conference but Mendoza, a strong contender for the Coach of the Year award, was able to squeeze the best from his team which lacked a legitimate slotman.

Roland Pascual, a member of the mythical five, sizzled for Ana with 24 points.

ANA 97—Pascual 24, R. Mendoza 17, Tubid 13, Mendoza 12, Capus 11, Mendez 9, Vilar 6, Artadi 5, De Castro 0.

GIV 93—Billones 32, Bacani 22, Legaspi 10, Sanz 9, Gumatay 7, De la Cuesta 5, Calo 4, Codamon 2, Epondulan 2, Kalaw 0. Quarters: 21-34, 46-52, 69-75, 97-93.

WELCOAT 73—Manalo 17, Ritualo 13, De Ocampo 11, Patrimonio 9, Encarnacion 8, Cruz 5, Tan 4, Tolentino 4, Canlas 2, Carmoña 0, Orfrecio 0.

SHARK 65—Malabanan 18, Sotto 16, Robinson 9, Tolomia 8, Castro 7, Basilides 5, Ybanez 2, Ortega 0, Rodriguez 0, Gumpenberger 0. Quarters: 17-16, 36-31, 55-51, 73-65.

Aces seek 4th victory

	W	L		W	L
Alaska	3	0	Tanduay	1	2
SMB	3	1	Ginebra	1	2
Mobiline	2	1	Purefoods	1	2
Red Bull	2	2	Sta. Lucia	1	2
Pop Cola	2	2	Shell	1	3

GAMES TODAY (Philsports)
5:15 p.m. – Tanduay vs Ginebra
7:30 p.m. – Sta. Lucia vs Alaska

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ALASKA Milk, rarely opening a conference on a hot streak, shoots for its fourth straight victory in the PBA Commissioner's Cup today when it tackles Sta. Lucia Realty today at Philsports.

Tanduay Gold and Barangay Ginebra hope to recover from similar losses in their previous games when they take on each other in the first game.

But focus will be on the Alaska-Sta. Lucia tussle where the Aces display how well they have jelled with import Terrance Badgett, the man instrumental in their victories over Batang Red Bull, Pop Cola and San Miguel Beer.

Badgett may not be an explosive scorer but he fits perfectly in the system of Tim Cone and eases the point-making load off Ali Peek and Kenneth Duremdes aside from providing the Aces defensive might.

Against all these, the Realtors are relying on Ansu Sesay, who is reportedly on the way out. His replacement, CBA stalwart Damian Owens, is set to arrive tomorrow, according to his agent Mike Gonzales.

Owens, who stands 6-foot-5, was the No. 2 overall pick by the Connecticut Pride in the Continental Basketball Association and had stints with the Minnesota Timberwolves in the NBA.

The Rhummasters are still trying to deal with their decimated lineup aside from the fact that their import Kevin Freeman has match-up problems with other imports.

At any rate, it might be Fletcher's final game since his replacement, former NBA player Jerald Honeycutt, has arrived in the country. Honeycutt, listed 6-foot-9, played for the Milwaukee Bucks and averaged 6.4 points and 2.4 rebounds per game from 1997-98.

Tiny group to hold polls

QUINTELIANO "Tiny" Literal is expected to run away with the Basketball Association of the Philippines' presidency when his faction elects its president and chair today at the Manila Regional Trial Court library.

The election will be in keeping with Manila RTC Judge Artemio Tipon's order, directing feuding parties to submit themselves to the exercise in a bid to end the six-month-old leadership crisis in the BAP.

Artemio ordered that the polls should commence at 9 a.m. at the court's library with the Clerk of Court, lawyer Jesusa Maningas, acting as official court representative, in attendance.

Asian Basketball Confederation legal adviser Gayrika Perusinghe will superviset the polls anticipated to be ignored by the group of Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat.

June Navarro

Wazzzzup?

ACACIA 236 WILSON ST. GREENHILLS	NANTE & EMMA (SING-ALONG/STAND-UP COMEDY)	GINO & TETAY/JUNE21 ☎0917.8146674
AUDIOTORIUM 23 WEST AVE. QUEZON CITY	SABOR LATINO	374.2330/373.5574
Bogota World Music Bar & Restaurant 574 PEDRO GIL ST., MALATE	BIG DEAL	P 300 CONSUMABLE 524.9245/525.5276
Café OVERDRIVE	PASSAGE TOY SYMPHONY	FREE ENTRANCE 818.5555/813.1348
Cowboy Grill BRGY ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS	SERSIDE STAY TUNED	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎801.7644
Cowboy Grill 1190 ARQUIZA ST., MANILA	DECADE SOCIETY KNIGHTS/HEARTBEAT	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill 431 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	GOALKEYS FEEDBACK	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	MR. ROXY FAT 16	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎936.9757
Friends @ the square ST FRANCIS SQ., ORTIGAS CENTER	ICE BOX	15TH AVENUE JUNE 23/635.0279
Jer's II REAL CALAMBA, LAGUNA	ALTER EGO (MALE VOICE)	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎0917.7387303
KAMPO 2088 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	LIMITED EDITION MAGIC TOUCH/DEGREE	P 200 CONSUMABLE 373.5110/373.7181
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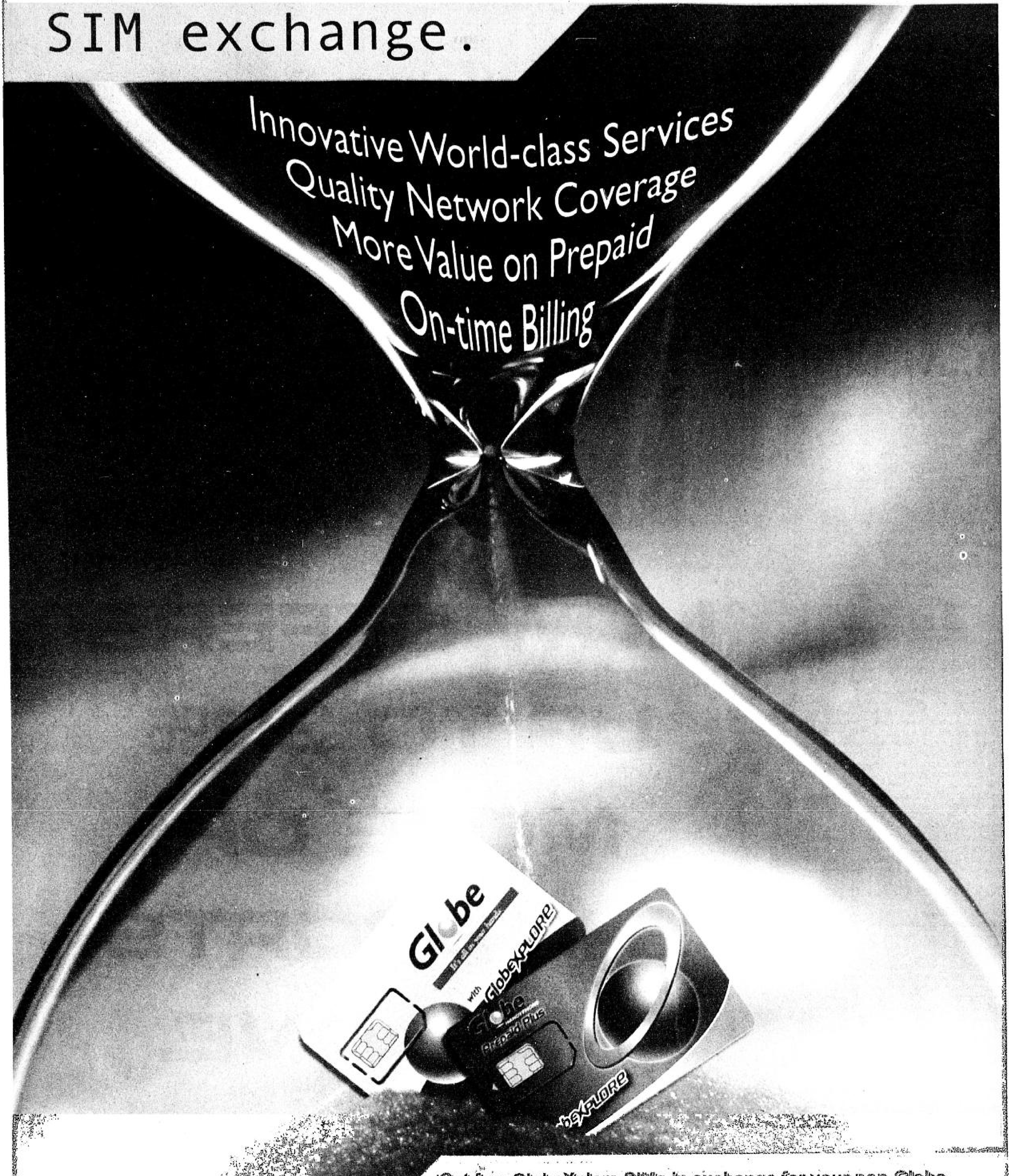
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■ 2 big Microsoft pirates raided A26
■ Makati firing 1,700 gov't employees A26

METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Cops score big

BY JEROME ANING
AND NELSON FLORES

POLICE scored big in Metro Manila when they broke up two robbery gangs in Las Piñas and Makati and seized 2 kilos of marijuana worth P50,000 from a suspected drug pusher in Quiapo.

Supt. Danilo Abarzosa, Western Police District Station 3 commander, yesterday said his men had been monitoring for weeks the activities of suspect Romeo Espares, 24, married, of 24 Basan Street, Quiapo, Manila.

On Monday night, police closed in for the kill and set up a deal with Espares for the purchase of dried marijuana.

The marijuana leaves were said to have come from secret plantations in Abra and Benguet.

PO1 Arnold Quiambao of the Drug Enforcement Unit posed as a buyer, went to the suspect's house and found the suspect waiting with a brick of marijuana weighing about half a kilo.

As soon as Espares handed the narcotic to Quiambao and received a marked P500 bill, the lawman then signaled to his companions who came barging into the house to arrest the suspect.

Police also found two more bricks of marijuana weighing about one-and-a-half kilo and two fan knives inside Espares' house.

Authorities yesterday filed drug charges against Espares who has been detained at Station 3 headquarters in Sta. Cruz.

On Friday, Southern Police District lawmen arrested six members of two robbery gangs who preyed on commuters in Las Piñas and Makati.

Senior Supt. Jose Gutierrez, SPDO director, yesterday said the suspects have already confessed to police that they have been robbing jeepney and FX taxi passengers in the two cities for weeks.

Gutierrez identified the suspects as Rommel Duria, 30; Alexander Mandagon, 28; and Donato De Leon, 32, all residents of Bagbag-Sauyo, Novaliches, Quezon City; Marcelo Roxas, 18, of T.S. Cruz Subdivision, Las Piñas City; Solomon Sopatan, 29, of Moonwalk Subdivision, also in Las Piñas; and Bernardo Bronola, 34, of Purok Dagohoy, Diliman, Quezon City.

Gutierrez said a police team under Chief Insp. Antonio Malabanan arrested Duria, Mandagon and De Leon in Las Piñas and seized from the suspects a homemade shotgun with two live shells, a fully loaded .357 caliber revolver and a .45 caliber pistol with seven rounds.

On June 15, Malabanan and his men were on routine patrol on a dimly lit portion of Daang Hari when they spotted Duria, Mondagon and De Leon acting suspiciously.

COPS SCORE/ A26

This one has score to settle

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

FOR ATTEMPTING to shoot a man, a drunken policeman assigned with the Central Police District has been relieved from his post.

PO1 Roel Manginsay is also in danger of being kicked out of the service after he allegedly assaulted John Brian D. Cenal of 168 Visayas Hills in Quezon City, said Senior Supt. Rodolfo Tor, CPD director in a press statement.

Cenal suffered a cut on his head because of Manginsay's assault.

Police said Manginsay

THIS ONE/ A26

Trader killed over parking

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

TWO MEN riding a motorcycle shot dead a businessman on Monday over what police said was a long-running parking feud in Valenzuela City.

Businessman Ernesto Manuel, 47, of 4091 El Bernardino St. in Barangay Gen. T. de Leon, Valenzuela died while undergoing treatment at the Valenzuela District Hospital from three gunshot wounds in the chest and right arm, police said.

Two unidentified men wearing helmets shot Manuel while he was delivering softdrinks in Demetillo Compound about 2 p.m. Monday, police said.

Manuel arrived in the compound in an Isuzu Elf truck and went straight to a store to unload cases of softdrinks, said Jonathan Dala, Manuel's employee.

Dala told police that he heard a commotion in the store a few minuets later. When he went to check, Dala said he saw Manuel was being attacked by one of the men.

He said the other man had a .38 revolver and was waiting on a red motorcycle nearby.

When Manuel managed to free himself from his attacker, the man shot him three times, Dala said. The unidentified men then fled on the motorcycle.

Police theorized that the victim's killing could have been related to his row with some residents over parking.

Manuel's wife told police that her husband earned the ire of residents twice after he parked his truck on a narrow street near the Demetillo Compound.

Woman nabbed for taking civil service examination

BY CHILIP C. TUBEZA

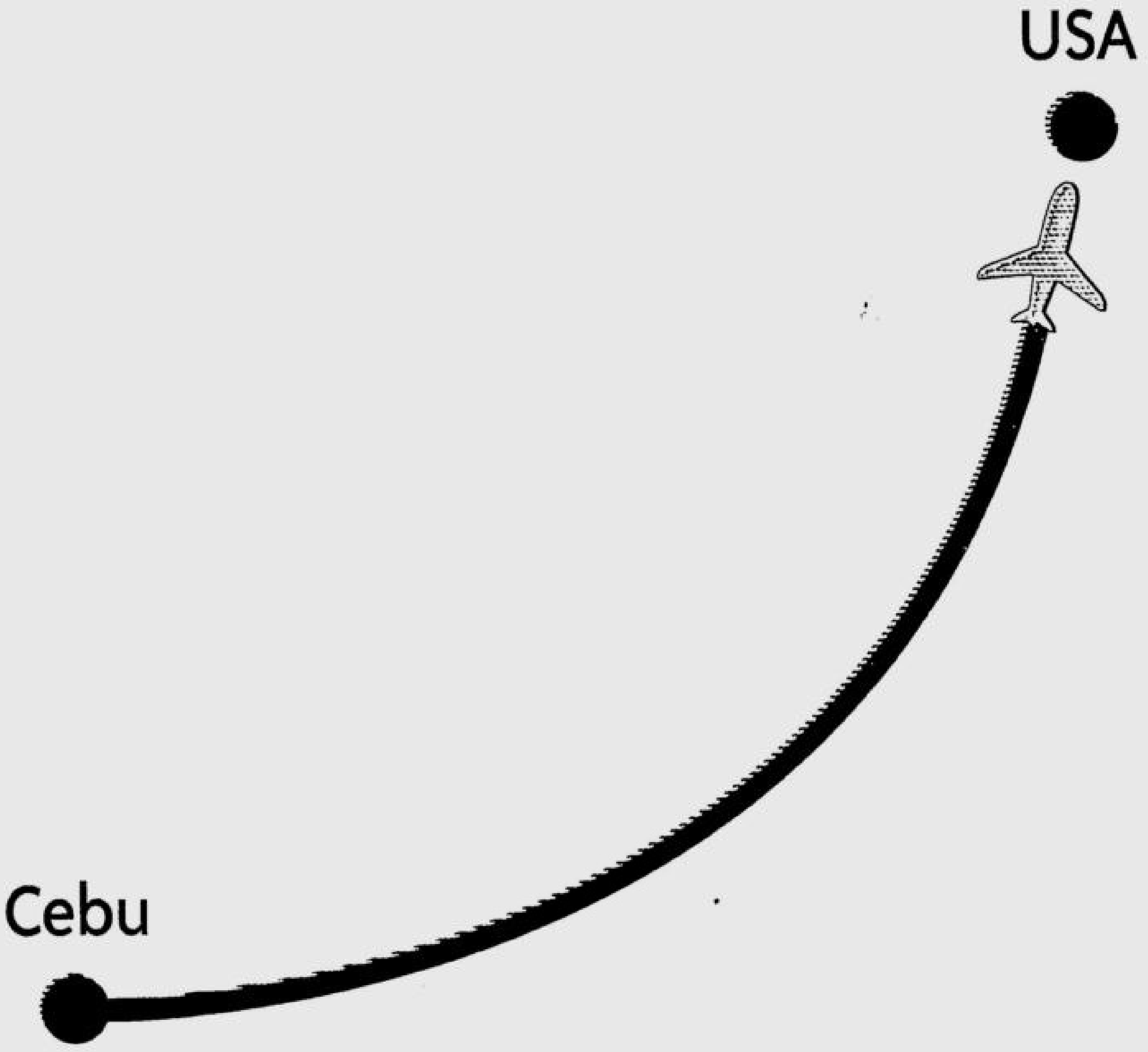
HAVING a hard time passing the civil service exam?

For a fee of P5,000, civil service exam flunkies could get somebody else to take the exam and have a great chance of passing.

Kamuning police station investigators got wind of this modus operandi after a 36-year-old clerk was arrested yesterday for taking the civil service exam for the fourth time under different names.

Elena L. Jose, 36, of 129 United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila was arrested yesterday morning at the Civil Service Region IV office on Panay Avenue, Quezon City, said investigator PO1 Rommel Merino, of

WOMAN NABBED/ A26



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2 big Microsoft pirates raided

By Jerome Aning

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday said its agents seized 30 computers loaded with unlicensed software programs worth P5 million during simultaneous raids of two firms in Makati and Mandaluyong cities last week.

NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco identified the two companies as the Interactive Data Systems Inc. on the 9th Floor, Sterling Centre, Dela Rosa Avenue, Makati, and the Filipinas Dravo Corp. at the 2nd floor of the PNCC Building, Edsa corner Reliance Street, Mandaluyong.

Lawyer Jose Justo Yap, head of the NBI's intellectual property rights division, said the companies were raided based on a complaint filed by the Business Software Alliance and a search warrant secured from Judge Antonio Eugenio Jr. of the Manila Regional Trial Court.

Both Microsoft and Autodesk are members of the BSA, a non-profit international organization representing business software manufacturers in the worldwide drive against software piracy. IDSI and FDC were raided by NBI agents on June 8.

Confiscated were 11 computers from IDSI and 21 computers from FDC with a total value of P5 million.

Yap said the computers were loaded with unlicensed Microsoft and Autodesk software products such as MS Windows 98, MS Office 2000, Office 97, AutoCAD R-14 and 3D Studio Max 2.5.

The NBI said it had received reports that software piracy is most prevalent in the architectural, engineering, services, shipping and manufacturing business sectors.

The IDSI is a company involved in research and development of computer programs used in providing financial market information and on-line financial trading. FDC is an architecture and engineering consultancy firm engaged in computer-aided and structural design project and construction management.

The two firms are set to be charged before the Department of Justice with copyright infringement, a violation of Section 177 in relation to Section 217 of Republic Act 8293.

Thank heaven for Caguioa & Co.

Bare Eye

Recah Trinidad

THE SENSATIONAL kid with the gold-tinted hairdo and a sharp, reliable jump shot is like young wine. Give him time and he would be a lot better. That's according to the kid's father.

There actually was nothing much more his coach could've asked of Mark Caguioa, easily the most sensational *Pinoy* export from the United States who stole the show in the previous PBA All-Filipino conference.

But Ric Caguioa, Mark's doting papa, explained that his son has a lot more to offer.

The way Ric, Kadoy or Tolong to his former playmates in riverside Mandaluyong, sees it, Mark the Spark will continue to improve just like good wine in a cool cellar.

Well, this piece should indeed be dealing on Spanish vintage. On the way to his last trip to Los Angeles, your reporter here got invited and did drop by a winery in Barcelona. The exact area was the Penedes region, producer of some of the most exquisite grapes this side of the Mediterranean.

We've got some happy tales of discovery about the fantastic Miguel Torres winery, adjudged the most important cellar in Spain today.

But that story will be told next time because Mark the Spark's anxious father has some very urgent message for his boy.

* * *

In fact, Kadoy Caguioa left work early and drove to the LA airport last week to make sure his son got the timely warning.

The father's reminder: Mark must stick to a strict diet. He must watch his weight. He should not grow past 175 pounds, otherwise his game would deteriorate.

He should not skip weight training, it's his biggest source of speed, sharpness and power.

Anyway, worried as he had seemed, the father said there was no way Mark, 21, who's billeted in a condo unit and serviced by an chauffer-driven car, would get spoiled and lose hold of himself. Reason: Mark's earnings go straight to a bank account in California. The boy is also no neophyte when it comes to dealing with girls. Mark has had more than his share of sweet friends while making waves in California school leagues.

What's somewhat bothered Ric Caguioa are the many tantalizing offers being dangled to Mark this early.

The boy has a two-year contract with Ginebra San Miguel. But from what the father had been told, it seemed Barangay Ginebra itself wanted to extend the live contract for at least two more years.

* * *

As for the All-Filipino title, which Ginebra lost to San Miguel Beer, 2-4, Mark's father sounded solidly convinced that his son's team could've fared better, or even won the crown.

At the same time, Ric Caguioa appeared very concerned after an offhand comment he made on coach Allan Caidic during a weekend game in California had reached the Ginebra dugout.

It turned out a couple of visiting *Pinoy* playmates he scrimmaged with were Caidic loyalists.

Marks's father said he did not mean to bad-mouth the Ginebra coaching staff and explained he spoke mainly out of frustration.

Well, if Kadoy Caguioa did not happen to be a dedicated basketball scholar, he would have just kept quiet. After all, there's nothing to be frustrated about his son's sensational showing in the Philippines.

Mark Caguioa was so good that the boy who left Barangay Vergara in Mandaluyong and returned after 10 years in California has zoomed to stardom overnight.

His father may be right. We've not seen the best of Mark Caguioa, who has clearly set a benchmark for young cagers moving into the PBA turf all the way from the US of A.

Obviously inspired by Caguioa's instant stardom, a big herd of Fil-Am cagers will try to invade the PBA next year.

We got a call from agent Rolando Hiso in Chicago who said he has more than a hundred aspirants raring to try it out in the PBA. And many of them are a lot better than Caguioa and the others now seeing action in the Philippines, Hiso claimed.

Let's just hope and pray this is true. Because we need all the basketball talents we can gather from abroad.

All for the dirty, dark, damned, disheartening fact that it's useless politics that's being regularly cooked and developed into a sports industry by our quarreling amateur basketball leaders.

Thank God these mindless men are too senile to influence and affect Mark Caguioa & Co.

Students, teachers slam Mayor Atienza's critics

By Jerome Aning

EDUKASYON
PAGSAMAHIN!
ang
hardin
kung
EDUKASYON

CITY College of Manila students set out on an instant field trip to Manila City Hall to support Mayor Atienza's controversial plan to move their campus from the old PNB building on narrow Escolta Street to the historic Mehan Garden just behind the Metropolitan Theater. RANDY HORMILLOSA

ABOUT 2,000 students, faculty members and officials from the City College of Manila trooped to City Hall yesterday morning to express their support for Mayor Lito Atienza's controversial plan to transfer their school to the historic Mehan Garden.

The students branded critics of the transfer as "elitist and anti-poor," and called on the mayor to remain "steadfast" in his commitment to build the new campus.

Historians, cultural conservationists and environmentalists are strongly opposing the setting up of a new CCM campus on Mehan Garden, one of the city's remaining green parks which was established during the Spanish period as Jardin Botanico.

"Why is it that they (the critics) always object when something would benefit Manileños, such as poor students like us?" asked Marlon Bestil, a senior Education student who participated in the rally.

"They don't even go to the Mehan Garden and probably have only recently noticed the place," Bestil said. "They don't even care about the difficulties we are experiencing at present."

The garden is located between P. Burgos Drive and Arroceros Street, a stone's throw from the Manila City Hall.

The students said the construction of the new campus on their garden would "give life to the (park's) gloomy atmosphere," which has been turned into a garbage dump and where prostitutes, pimps, drug addicts, beggars, street children and other vagrants hang out.

CCM students, led by school council officials Johnaray Dimaunahan, Hero Masuda and Juliet Reyes, personally met the mayor in his office yesterday morning.

Also present were CCM officials led by its president, Dr. Virginia Santos, executive dean Daisy Manansala, vice president of academic affairs Adoracion Acuña and dean of student affairs Angel Lucero.

"The city government will never back out from its obligation to give good education to Manila's youth," the mayor told the CCM delegation.

The other day, Atienza said construction of two buildings in the park for the CCM would in fact "enhance" Mehan Garden. He also belied allegations that the new campus will take over the entire garden, adding that only one-third of the 24,600-square meter park will be occupied.

The city executive also said trees that will be affected by the construction will be transplanted to other vacant parts of the park.

CCM, established in 1995 during the term of Mayor Alfredo Lim, was intended for poor but deserving city youths who could not afford a college education.

According to the mayor's office, an estimated 6,000 students are crammed in the CCM's campus on Escolta Street in Sta. Cruz. The "campus" is actually an old building which used to be the corporate headquarters of the Philippine National Bank which City Hall bought.

Students and teachers have also complained that the building is "not conducive to learning." In a statement, City Hall described the building as a "veritable firetrap, with the elevators frequently malfunctioning."

School officials have recently installed a net at the entrance to protect students from plaster debris that occasionally fall off the building's façade. "There is actually no campus; students mill on Escolta and are in danger from speeding vehicles," according to the student council's statement.

Cops score big

(From page A25)

Malabanan decided to accost the suspects before they were able to board an FX Taxi, said SPO1 Benjamin Javier, Las Piñas City investigator.

"It turned out the suspects were armed to the teeth," Javier said.

Though police were able to arrest the three suspects, they missed the fourth man, a taxi driver of a white Toyota Corolla (PWH 164), Javier said.

The driver, whose name police refused to divulge, is now the subject of a manhunt.

Javier said that during interrogation, the suspects admitted they had been preying on hapless commuters along Daang Hari and Almanza.

Javier also appealed to all robbery victims to proceed to the Las Piñas City police station to identify the suspects and file the proper complaint.

In Makati, police arrested Roxas, Sopatan and Bronola while they were about to board an FX taxi in a jeep terminal at the Ayala Commercial Complex late Friday afternoon.

Police said several concerned bystanders noted the suspicious presence of the suspects at the terminal and reported them to the police.

Lawmen from a nearby detachment led by Supt. Jovito Gutierrez arrived on the scene and accosted the suspects who were caught by surprise.

When frisked, the three suspects yielded two homemade .38 caliber revolvers with 18 live rounds and a pair of gloves, police said.

During investigation, the suspects also confessed their part in a series of robberies along the Zapote-Alabang Road in Las Piñas, police said.

Supt. Gutierrez also appealed to all robbery victims to proceed to the Makati City police station headquarters to identify and file the necessary complaints against the suspects.

Makati firing 1,700 employees

By Nelson Flores

IN A bid to save money, the cash-strapped Makati City government will fire 1,700 casual employees by the end of the month.

Makati City government chief personnel officer Mario Rodriguez yesterday made this disclosure in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

He said the city government would save at least P150 million a month once the streamlining is completed.

The move, Rodriguez said, is standard operating procedure at the end of each fiscal year.

He said lazy employees and those with records of numerous absences and tardiness would be the first to go.

Employees who are performing functions not necessary to the operation of their offices would also be terminated, Rodriguez added.

He said the General Services Department and the Makati Public Safety Authority would most likely bear the brunt of the streamlining.

Employees, who have been appointed because of their political connections, particularly those detailed at the City Council, including the Office of the Vice Mayor, would also be affected by the downsizing, Rodriguez said.

But he added that after the budget problem has been settled, the city government would again hire people for the vacant positions.

The Makati City local government has about 3,500 regular, casual and contractual employees.

This one has . . .

(From page A25)

was drunk after midnight on Saturday when he came upon Cenal's group having a drinking session near a basketball court in Aklanon, Rafael in Balara, Quezon City.

Manginsay fired a shot in the air and Cenal's group scampered to different directions, police said.

Manginsay then challenged to a fight the men who remained, police said.

Unfortunately, Manginsay caught up with Cenal who was trying to flee the scene.

Police said Manginsay dragged Cenal back to the basketball court, pressed his gun on Cenal's stomach and pulled the trigger.

Luckily, the gun did not go off, police said.

This angered Manginsay who then whipped Cenal on the head with his pistol, police said.

Police said Cenal was only able to escape because of Manginsay's drunkenness.

Cenal then reported the incident to the police, who conducted a thorough investigation.

Tor said there was enough evidence to have Manginsay relieved. He also ordered summary dismissal proceedings against Manginsay.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, June 20, 2001
11th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Cor 9:6-11
Gospel: Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be careful not to make a show of your righteousness before people. If you do so, you do not gain anything from your Father in heaven. When you give something to the poor, do not have it trumpeted before you, as do those who want to be seen in the synagogues and in the streets in order to be praised by the people. I assure you, they have been already paid in full.

If you give something to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your gift remains really secret. Your Father who sees what is kept secret, will reward you.

When you pray, do not be like those who want to be seen. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues or on street corners to be seen by everyone. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is with you in secret; and your Father who sees what is kept secret will reward you.

When you fast, do not put on a miserable face as do the hypocrites. They put on a gloomy face, so people can see they are fasting. I tell you this: they have been paid in full already. When you fast, wash your face and make yourself look cheerful, because you are not fasting for appearance or for people, but for your Father who sees beyond appearances. And your Father, who sees what is kept secret will reward you."

Commentary:

Judaism has three expressions of piety that also play a central role in the Christian community: almsgiving, prayer and fasting. They are meant to be expressions of love and have as their purpose to bring people closer to God and to one another. They degenerate, however, into platitudes when they are no longer guided from the center of the human person. Almsgiving can turn into something cheap that alienates people from one another. Prayer can turn into damaging hypocrisy. Jesus is very sensitive to this possible distortion and asks the people to turn inward, to enter into the intimacy of their hearts where they can meet God. Piety draws its force from a correct relation with God.

Father in heaven, we thank you for having endowed us with the precious gift of piety. Grant that we may always use it as expression of sincere love.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

Vendor slain over unpaid 'tong-its' bet

FOR FAILING to pay a P150 *tong-its* bet, a noodle vendor was shot dead yesterday by a fellow vendor in Quezon City.

Jose Arellano, of Maria Clara Street in Barangay Sto. Domingo, La Loma, Quezon City died instantly after his friend Jaime Pulbera, also of Sto. Domingo, shot him with a handgun of unknown caliber.

Senior Insp. Rudy Jaraza, of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit said Pulbera bore an old grudge against Arellano who owed him P150 in *tong-its* bets.

Pulbera was on a tricycle driven by Larry Australia Jr. when he encountered Arellano who was walking near his home on Maria Clara Street about 11:40 a.m. yesterday.

Pulbera, who was apparently drunk, suddenly pulled out his handgun and shot Arellano in the face, Jaraza added.

Arellano was hit in the left cheek and slumped on the roadside.

Jaraza said Pulbera then pointed his gun at Australia and ordered him to take him to Biak-na-Bato in Barangay Sto. Domingo, near Quezon Avenue, where Pulbera boarded a jeep headed for Manila.

Arellano's wife Helen told the police that Australia fetched her husband about 8:30 a.m. yesterday. It was the last time she saw him alive, she said.

Philip Tubeza

Woman nabbed . . .

(From page A25)

the Kamuning police station.

Civil service officials reportedly noticed, through her pictures, that Jose had taken the exam under the names Elena Leano, Emilia Aguinaldo, and Elinita Alcantara.

"An encoder noticed her pictures on the previous records. She was arrested after she took the exam," Merino said.

He said that Jose's modus operandi is common not just for the civil service tests but also for the exams of the Professional Regulatory Commission.

He said flunkies pay P5,000 for somebody else to take the exam. Merino, however, said that the police are still trying to find out if there might be some civil service officials involved in the scam.

The suspect denied that she was involved in the scam and insisted she was taking the exam for the first time.

"But she's the one on the pictures on the previous records. The handwriting is also very similar," Merino said.

Jose was charged yesterday before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office with falsification of public documents.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LABOR LAW (TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT)—Recruitment and placement—Accused-appellant contend that he could not have committed the crime of illegal recruitment in large scale since the POEA officer testified that licenses for recruitment and placement are issued only to corporations and not to natural persons. This argument is specious and illogical. The Labor Code states that "any person or entity which, in any manner, offers or promises for a fee employment to 2 or more persons shall be deemed engaged in recruitment and placement." Corollarity, a nonlicense or nonholder of authority is any person, corporation or entity which has not been issued a valid license or authority to engage in recruitment and placement by the Secretary of Labor, or whose license or authority has been suspended, revoked, or canceled by the POEA or the Secretary. It also bears stressing that agents or representatives appointed by a licensee or a holder of authority but whose appointments are not previously authorized by the POEA fall within the meaning of the term nonlicensee or nonholder of authority. Thus, any person, whether natural or judicial, that engages in recruitment activities without the necessary license or authority shall be penalized under Art. 39 of the Labor Code. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, People v. Saulo, G.R. No. 125903, November 15, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

UP Singing Ambassadors bring new message of goodwill

AT THE Sydney Opera House in Australia, the University of the Philippines Singing Ambassadors, or the UPSA, delivered a sterling performance, mesmerized the audience, then received thunderous applause.

It was not the usual applause: for every song, a standing ovation. Among 18 internationally acclaimed choirs invited, the UPSA was the only one to achieve this feat.

Backstage, the UPSA members embraced each other, for they had again made the Philippines and the Filipinos proud.

The UPSA represented the Philippines in the traditional relay and lighting of the torch at Newcastle, Australia, for the Sydney 2000 Summer Olympics. In the torch event, outstanding choirs from all over the world performed Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

For the UPSA, the torch lighting was doubly symbolic. It capped two decades of colorful music which has captivated audiences in many parts of the world, and it also ushered in another heartwarming period for the members of the group who vowed to continue to use music to cross borders.

Twenty years have passed since a modest choir from the freshman Kalayaan Residence Hall of the University of the Philippines reconstituted itself in 1980. From being Kalayaan Choral Crowd, which regaled local audiences in charity shows, university functions, and inter-collegiate competitions it became the UP Singing Ambassadors.

Singing from the heart

In Jerusalem, during its first international trip, the UPSA became an easy favorite among 40 choirs in the 16th Zimriya World Assembly of Choirs. It was one of the four groups chosen to open the week-long choral festival and workshop. It was there that it earned its first standing ovation abroad.

Joel Navarro, conductor of the Ateneo College Glee Club, describes the UPSA sound as "characterized by homogeneity and balance . . . a result of patient and dedicated voice sculpturing by their conductor, and the choir's singular and linear vision to achieve its highest potential."

International judges and various audiences worldwide say it succinctly: UPSA sings from the heart.

At the Choral International de Neuchatel in Switzerland in 1995, the UPSA became the only choir allowed to sing four encore numbers despite the no-encore rule.

Awards

The group remembers that in the Netherlands, the audience, from the orchestra up to the balcony in a place filled to the rafters, rose in ovation, clapping and stomping their feet.

In Spain at the Festiva de Musica also in 1995, the UPSA received the People's Choice Award. And in France at the Florilege Vocal de Tours, the UPSA had the singular distinction of performing the grand finale of one of the competition's closing ceremonies.

In the olympics of choral singing in Italy, the 40th Concorso Polifonico Internazionale "Guido d' Arezzo" in 1992, the UPSA bagged the top prize in the folkloric category.

In the Swiss festival in 1995, it won the top prize in the mixed choir category. It won second prize at the Netherlands contest, and third prize in Spain.

In the Philippines, the UPSA has won many awards such as in the Cultural Center of the Philippines National Music Competition for Young Artists (NAMCYA) in 1983 and 1985.

Goodwill

On stage, UPSA conductor Ed Manguiat is a riveting figure. Off stage, he is the uniting force behind the UPSA. He envisions the UPSA both as a harbinger of goodwill and Philippine culture through songs and dance, and as a model of dutiful social and civic work.

While international competitions have become part of the UPSA tradition, Manguiat has also painstakingly brought the group to the countryside to bring music for free or to solicit help for the poor.

A graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Administration in UP but also educated at the College of Music, Manguiat studied voice under the country's top vocal teachers and opera artists.

He has participated in workshops of outstanding international conductors, including Eric Ericsson of Sweden. The choirs of several top companies in the country have worked under his guidance, some earning national accolade and recognition, like the Astra Zeneca Choir, the Philippine Stock Exchange Choir, the PAGCOR Chorale, the Caltex Choir, and the San Miguel Beer Choir.

His awards and recognition include honors for being the "Most Outstanding Lipeño in the Arts" in 1993, the Lipa Jaycees' "The Most Outstanding Youth of Lipa" Award in 1996, and Lipa City's 50th Anniversary "Golden Achievers Award" in 1997.

'Adeu Vos Guard'

In its 21 years of existence, the UPSA has traveled to many parts of the world. It has graced many milestone events in the country, performed on television and radio, and brought their beautiful music to orphanages, prisons, hospitals and homes for the aged.

This year, it is poised to conquer Europe again when it visits France, Italy, Slovakia, Germany, Belgium, Spain, among many others.

The UPSA performs in a series of concerts titled "Deu Vos Guard (May God be with You): A 21st Anniversary Celebration," on Sunday, June 24, 7 p.m., at the Philamlife Auditorium; Monday, June 25, 6:30 p.m. at the UP Abelardo Hall; and Thursday, June 28, 6:30 p.m., at the Church of the Risen Lord in UP Diliman.

For inquiries and ticket reservations, call 924-9378, 434-3891, (0917) 836-4860 or (0917) 539-6416.

Ex-Mrs. Tom Cruise to go back to Australia to raise kids

SYDNEY—Australian actress Nicole Kidman plans to take time off and return to Sydney to raise the two children she adopted with estranged husband Tom Cruise, according to a report here Monday.

She told the Australian magazine Woman's Day she hoped to fly to Australia next month after she finishes her latest film, "The Hours," to be reunited with Isabella, eight, and Connor, six.

"I don't want to work for the rest of the year," Kidman said. "I'm just trying to take care of my kids. Sydney is my home town . . . and ultimately it's where I want to raise my children.

"I want to have two kids who grow up and say, 'I'm happy, I'm healthy, and I love you, Mum.' I want to know them and I'm willing to give up everything for that."

The star of the Australian-made blockbuster "Moulin Rouge," directed by Baz Luhrman, said she felt an "enormous amount of support" from the Australian community, and was looking forward to going home and relaxing.

"After everything that's happened, and everything I've been through, to be actually going home is wonderful," she said.

It has been four months since Kidman's acrimonious and public split from Cruise. *AFP*

Mother of Gary Estrada's son wanted to stop his wedding

BLIND SPOT

A NON-SHOW BIZ girl from a rich family was distraught over actor Gary Estrada's recent marriage to actresss Bernadette Allyson.

The girl, who has a 7-year-old son by Gary, claimed the actor promised to marry her.

When Gary announced he would tie the knot with Bernadette, the girl's heart was crushed.

The rich girl initially wanted to raise a ruckus but thought the better of it for the sake of her son.

Besides, her parents would not allow her to come out in the open and talk about her relationship with Gary.

The girl has another kid by an award-winning young actor who's a comedian's son. She works in a Makati firm.

Exec's Morning Girl

WHO is the current apple of the eye of this network executive who is already married to a former TV host?

The present favorite wakes you up every morning.

Before she joined the network, the girl was familiar face and voice on TV and on radio.

Freddie Garcia coming home?

IS IT true that ABS-CBN president Freddie M. Garcia will move over to rival GMA 7 when Manny Pangilinan takes over management of the network?

Garcia is expected to retire soon from ABS-CBN, so it will not appear that GMA pirated him.

If he does cross over, it will be a homecoming of sorts for Garcia, who used to head GMA's Network Marketing department.

Pops has to do TV drama . . .

(From page A29)

Douglas Quijano.

Tito Dougs introduced us to the shopping haven in Guandong, China, where we had a ball scouting for great bargains.

Janno Gibbs was joined by his wife **Bing Loyzaga** at the end of the taping. They spent three more days in Hong Kong, too.

Anna Roces was with her mom, **Carmen Adad**, who was fascinated by the inexpensive goods at the Lo Wu Shopping Center in China.

Precocious child star **Goyong** was chaperoned by his mom. It was their first Hong Kong trip together.

But Streetboys member **Danilo Barrios** had to leave as soon as his scenes were done, since he had to return to Manila for another commitment. Danilo was with his manager, director **Chito Roño**.

Other people in the entourage were also accompanied by relatives. Sitcom director **Uro de la Cruz** was with his son, while GMA assistant vice president for programming **Marivin Arayata** was with her teenage son **Ryan**.

The special episodes of "Beh Bote Nga" shot in Hong Kong and China will be aired as a two-part special tonight and on June 27, 7:30 to 9 p.m. on GMA.

BUREAU

NTWINE

TRUEFAITH

Bureau is back

SHOWS

AFTER a successful, limited engagement in Japan's 38 Live, Bureau, composed of talented vocalists and instrumentalists, is now back in the local night club scene.

The group performs in several night spots this month: Strumm's El Pueblo on Wednesdays, Tropical Forrest on Thursdays, Ratsky's on Fridays and Soundstage on Saturdays.

The band holds an all-night long party at the SM Soundstage on June 30.

Bureau dishes out retro, new wave, punk, rock, R&B and the latest Top 40 selections.

The group is composed of Red Miane and Sam Mendoza on vocals, Mark Castro on bass, Andy Indick on guitar, Jojo Camota on keyboards and Ruben Tecson on drums.

Crossover music

ANOTHER Crossover evening awaits music lovers when "Crossover Live" presents upcoming band Ntwine tonight at Strumms in Jupiter St. Makati.

Composed of Melanie Enerva, Jennifer Panuncio and Max Coquia on lead vocals, Christian Bartolome on keyboards, Jay Carmelotes on guitar, Chrisberry Haber on bass and Aries Corrales on drums, Ntwine plays a repertoire of the latest dance and R&B tunes and Crossover music.

Raffle and fun games are also in store for Crossover listeners with great prizes to be given away.

To be part of this event, keep your dial on 105.1 Crossover.

The show is presented by Opel Astra, Globe Handyphone, Mastercard and Close-Up, with Imarflex, Theragran M, Café Puro Jade Blend and National Bookstore. It is also brought in part by Ericsson Mobile Phones, PNB and Advil.

Virgin Café

AS part of the Great Band Nights series of Virgin Café at Tomas Morato, Quezon City, True Faith will hold a one-night show on Friday, June 22.

The group is known for their catchy pop tunes with a dash of rock.

The special event is co-presented by Nestea Iced Tea, with Petron Blaze and sponsored by Club Panoly Resorts Boracay, Lone Star Beer, The Hive 100.3 and 93.9 KC-FM.

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3	DTS	ACCIDENTAL SPY
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5	DOLBY DIGITAL	PEARL HARBOR
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
7	DOLBY SURROUND	EVOLUTION
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9	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
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5	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
6	DOLBY SURROUND	LUV TEXT
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	PEARL HARBOR
8	DOLBY SURROUND	ACCIDENTAL SPY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
11	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	KASIBULAN
SM CITY MANILA		5239240
1	DOLBY DIGITAL	ACCIDENTAL SPY
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	PEARL HARBOR
3	DOLBY SURROUND	DR. T & THE WOMEN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	EVOLUTION
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	HEAD OVER HEELS
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
7	DOLBY SURROUND	KASIBULAN
8	DOLBY SURROUND	GET OVER IT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	LUV TEXT
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
11	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR		8820950
1	ULTRA SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LUV TEXT
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ACCIDENTAL SPY
SM MEGAMALL		6331901 • 6329401
1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EVOLUTION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LUV TEXT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ACCIDENTAL SPY
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DR. T & THE WOMEN
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2	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
4	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
5	DOLBY SURROUND	DR. T & THE WOMEN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ACCIDENTAL SPY
7	DTS	EVOLUTION
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	PEARL HARBOR
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LUV TEXT
10	DOLBY SURROUND	GET OVER IT
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KASIBULAN
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
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1	ULTRA SURROUND	DR. T & THE WOMEN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
4	ULTRA SURROUND	ACCIDENTAL SPY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	LUV TEXT
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EVOLUTION
9	ULTRA SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
10	ULTRA SURROUND	KASIBULAN
TUTUBAN CENTER		2514302
1	ULTRA SURROUND	EVOLUTION
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LUV TEXT
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ACCIDENTAL SPY
SM CEBU		2313876
1	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
2	ULTRA SURROUND	VALENTINE
3	ULTRA SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
5	ULTRA SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
6	ULTRA SURROUND	LUV TEXT
7	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
SM ILOILO		3209422
1	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	VALENTINE
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1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EVOLUTION
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
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5 GOLD (DOLBY) DR. T & THE WOMEN
6 GOLD (SDDS) PEARL HARBOR
7 GOLD (DOLBY) EVOLUTION
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10 [illegible] BUHAY KAMAO

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9 MAGENTA

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4
5

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3 (DOLBY) EVOLUTION
4 BUHAY KAMAO

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2 KASIBULAN
3 BUHAY KAMAO
4 (DTS) LUV TEXT

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2 LUV TEXT
3 (DTS) HEAD OVER HEELS
4 BUHAY KAMAO
5 LABRADOR

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2 LUV TEXT
3 EVOLUTION

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2 EVOLUTION
3 BUHAY KAMAO

Olivarez Tagaytay
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2 PEARL HARBOR
3 KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

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1 PEARL HARBOR
2 BUHAY KAMAO
3 ANGEL EYES

Cabuyao
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1 (DTS) LUV TEXT
2 (DTS) BUHAY KAMAO

Fourstep
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2 LUV TEXT
3 BUHAY KAMAO

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1 PEARL HARBOR
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3 ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 SPOT

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2 BUHAY KAMAO
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Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
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2 LUV TEXT
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4 [illegible] THE REPLICANT

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- ACCIDENTAL SPY
- EVOLUTION

GALLERIA 632-9115-16
- OPENS JUNE 27, 2001
- PEARL HARBOR
- ACCIDENTAL SPY
- HEAD OVER HEELS
- EVOLUTION
- DR. T & THE WOMEN
- GET OVER IT
- LUV TEXT
- THE MUMMY RETURNS
- EVOLUTION

IMUS (046) 471-8188
- PEARL HARBOR
- ACCIDENTAL SPY
- LUV TEXT
- EVOLUTION
- BUHAY KAMAO
- KASIBULAN

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453
- PEARL HARBOR
- VALENTINE
- SUGAR & SPICE
- GET OVER IT
- ANTS IN THE PANTS
- CUTAWAY

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BUHAY KAMAO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	LUV TEXT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	EVOLUTION
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DR. T & THE WOMEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE REPLICANT
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	LUV TEXT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HULING PAGHIHINTAY / KAMASUTRE 2
ODEON	BUHAY KAMAO
ODEON-2	MAGENTA
ROBEN	THE REPLICANT
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	THE CROW / FAMILY MAN
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	KASIBULAN
QUEZON-1	BUHAY KAMAO
REMAR	BUHAY KAMAO
REMAR-2	MAGENTA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SPOT
CINEMA-2	EVOLUTION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUHAY KAMAO
CINEMA-2	KASIBULAN
CINEMA-3	MAGENTA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SPOT
CINEMA-6	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-7	LUV TEXT
CINEMA-8	THE REPLICANT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-12	HEAD OVER HEELS
CINEMA-14	DR. T & THE WOMEN
CINEMA-15	LUV TEXT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-3	DR. T & THE WOMEN
CINEMA-4	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-5	HEAD OVER HEELS
CINEMA-6	EVOLUTION
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-2	HIYAS
CINEMA-4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-4	BUHAY NA MANIKIN

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HAPPY Hour habitues at Conway's Bar are in for more treats as Makati's hottest night spot features more great acts and the right kind of music, perfect for winding down after a long day's work or just chilling out with friends.

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Wednesdays, Spirit A.D. delivers one-of-a-kind mellow, mod retro tunes while Swing Journal goes centerstage Thursdays.

Fridays, Spirit A.D. faces the spotlight again while chanteuse Tanya Arcellana rounds out the week on Saturdays with her soothing blend of classic and acoustic music with Martin Avila on the piano.

Conway's Bar is located at the 2nd level of Makati Shangri-La. For inquiries, call 813-8888.

'Tombraider' premiere

MTV Philippines Channel 41 presents the exclusive screening of "Lara Croft: Tombraider," 7:30 p.m. on June 26, at Cinema 6 of Glorietta 4. The first 50 people who come dressed as Lara Croft get in for free. Other great prizes and giveaways will be given out to lucky moviegoers during the event.

Academy-award winner Angelina Jolie stars as Lara Croft, the 21st century heroine inspired by the most popular interactive video character in history. Here Lara Croft takes on her greatest challenge: to find the halves of an ancient artifact and prevent it from entering the hands of a powerful secret society.

"Lara Croft: Tombraider" also stars Jon Voight as Lord Croft, Iain Glen as Manfred Powell, Daniel Craig as Alex West, Noah Taylor as Bryce and Richard Johnson as the Distinguished Gentlemen.

The movie is directed by Simon West and is distributed by United International Pictures.

MTV Philippines is on Channel 41 for free TV or non-cable subscribers, Channel 32 for Sky Cable subscribers and Channel 41 for Home Cable subscribers. All cable companies carry MTV Philippines in Manila.

For more information, call the MTV hotline at 882-IMTV or log on to www.mtvasia.com

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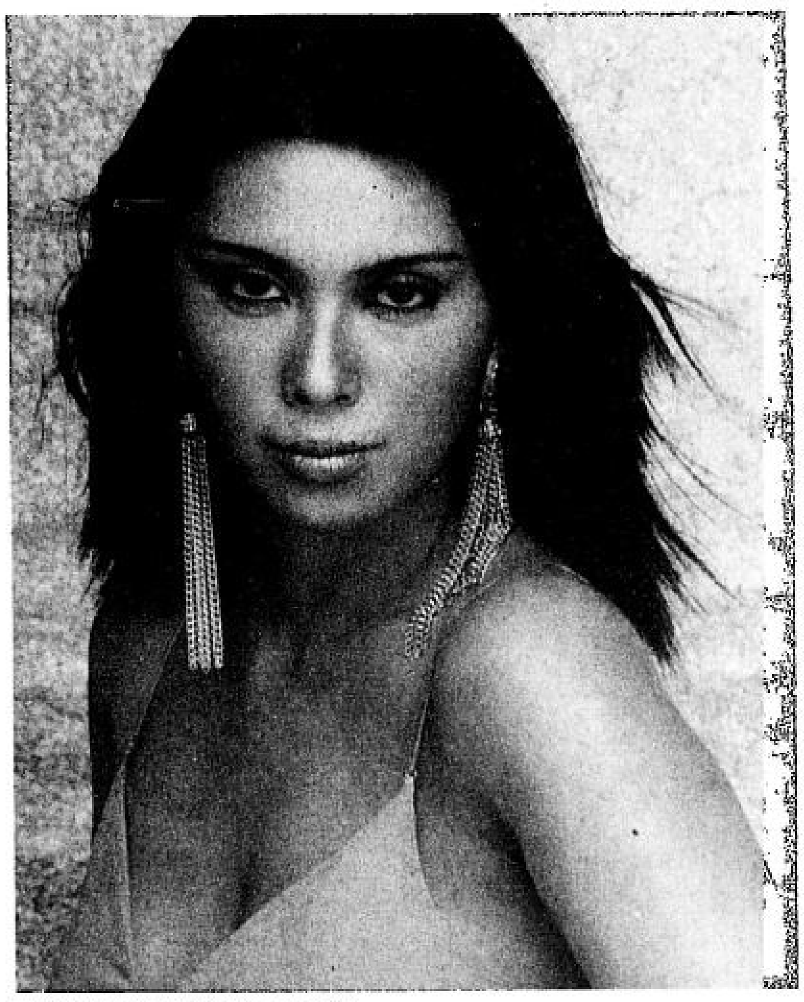

FERNANDEZ. Intimate concert

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: I'm so excited about our special jackpot today!

Cohost: *Oo nga*, with all that money, wow!

Host: *Kaya kayong nasa loob ng* TV, phone in *na, sumali na kayo! Lahat ng gusto nyo, ibibigay namin sa inyo. Ano ang gusto ninyo?*

(*Na makaalis sa loob ng* TV!)

* * *

Host: How nice *naman* the furniture in your house. *Ikaw ba ang nag*-design?

Guest: Oo.

Host: Who executed it? A company abroad?

Guest: No, *pinapatintero ko lang.*

(Huh?)

* * *

Newscaster: A Filipino was killed in New York last Monday. The police found it dead in an alley early in the morning . . .

(It? *Parang kuting . . .)*

* * *

Newscaster: Here in the Philippines, in Quezon City, at 8:30 this evening, a businessman was ambushed two hours earlier.

(Uh, please repeat?)

* * *

News anchor: *Ano ang* latest *diyan sa* rally?

Field reporter: *Malapit nang mag-umpisa ang* rally. *Makikita ang mga nagpoprotestang mga tao sa likod ng* background.

(Likod *na*, background pa?)

* * *

News anchor: *Kailan ang* estimated time *na matatapos ang* demonstration *diyan*?

Field reporter: Definitely, *hours pa. Kasi, may naka*-schedule pa after the speeches.

News anchor: Like what other activities?

Field reporter: For one, *may naka*-schedule *na pagsusunog ng* FPG *ng pangulo.*

(FPG? FPG?—*A*, effigy!)

* * *

Host: What do you think about your new manager?

Starlet: *Dependable siya*, very liable!

(Make-up your mind . . .)

* * *

Host: We have another phone call.

Cohost: Good, where is it from?

Host: All the way out there from Nueva Vizcaya!

(Saan?!)

Host: I have problems with mice and rats at home. What can I do about it?

Resource person: I will teach you all the methods. And you have to start right away before your rat population explodes! Remember rats have so many descents in just one year!

(Ano daw?)

* * *

Host: We still hear some coup rumors up to this day. What do you make of them?

Cohost: Oh, I think they're just rumors. For one thing, *ipinagwalang-bahala na lahat ng* coup rumors *ng dating* Fidel Ramos, and he should know!

(*Dating* Fidel Ramos?!)

* * *

Host: There's so much for Congress to do before it ends. How can you decide which bill to push?

Guest: Well, first thing first: What is primodal is to pass the budget for 2001.

(Primodal? *Bago 'yun, ah . . .)*

* * *

Host: What are the recipes we will be featuring in our cooking portion this week?

Guest cook: We have a really delicious one for temporary shrimp.

(Temporary shrimp?!—Oh, shrimp tempura!)

Pops has to do TV drama, US tour, concert, movie, mothering

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

POPS Fernandez signed a contract with GMA 7 to star in a four-part episode of "Larawan" in August. This move surprised a number of people who know that Pops is an exclusive star of ABS-CBN.

Pops, however, said her contract with the Sunday noontime show, "Asap," expired a long time ago and she hasn't renewed it.

But she also pointed out that her stint in "Larawan" doesn't necessarily mean she is moving to GMA. She was simply allowed by ABS-CBN to do the four-part series.

Pops is definitely busier in the latter half of the year. She has just completed a successful concert tour of the United States and has been offered to do another series.

Last month, she performed in New York, Los Angeles and Reno, with musical director **Homer Flores**. In September and October, she will embark on another performance tour of Hawaii, Atlantic City, Washington DC and San Diego. In August, she will be in Australia for a three-city tour.

But before she does more performances abroad, Pops will perform in the local concert front. She will do a solo concert, "Beyond Words," on Friday, June 22, at the Westin Philippine Plaza Ballroom.

Joining her in the Westin Plaza show are The Opera and musical director Homer Flores.

"This is a very cozy, intimate concert, very different from 'Shindig,'" Pops says. "'Shindig' was one huge party and a great production. This is a more laid-back performance."

Aside from her live performances, Pops is set to start filming a new movie, this time with **Robin Padilla**. The movie, "Videoke King" from Viva Films, will be filmed partly in Bangkok, she says.

Away from the limelight, Pops attends to her sons **Robin** and **Ram**, whom she tries to keep away from show biz and public scrutiny.

"That's why when it concerns the boys, I get sentimental and emotional," Pops says. "I want to make sure I give them the best."

Her recent US tour allowed Pops to bond with her sons, who went with her.

"My sons can come to me at any time in my life, regardless of what I'm doing," Pops says.

Last Sunday, Pops and her sons had a boob-tube reunion with dad **Martin Nievera**, whom they surprised while he was singing on ABS-CBN's noontime show, "Asap." It was their little celebration of Father's Day and the fans had a great time watching them together again, albeit only for reel.

Brief respite

THE CAST of "Beh Bote Nga" that went to Hong Kong and China to tape two special episodes of the sitcom also took the opportunity to make the trip a brief respite.

After the taping, **Anjo Yllana** and his wife **Jackie Manzano** extended their stay in Hong Kong. With them was Anjo's talent manager,

POPS/A28

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CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

EVOLUTION - P 13 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00	ACCIDENTAL SPY - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	DR. T & THE WOMEN - R 18 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
PEARL HARBOR - P 13 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00	HEAD OVER HEELS - P 13 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00	EVOLUTION - P 13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

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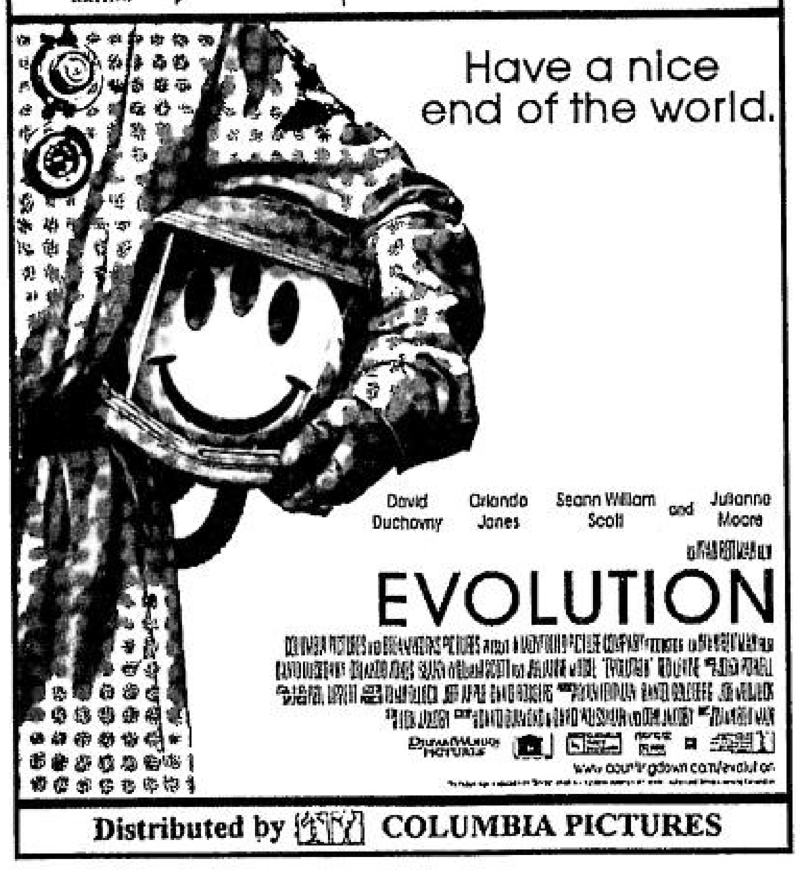

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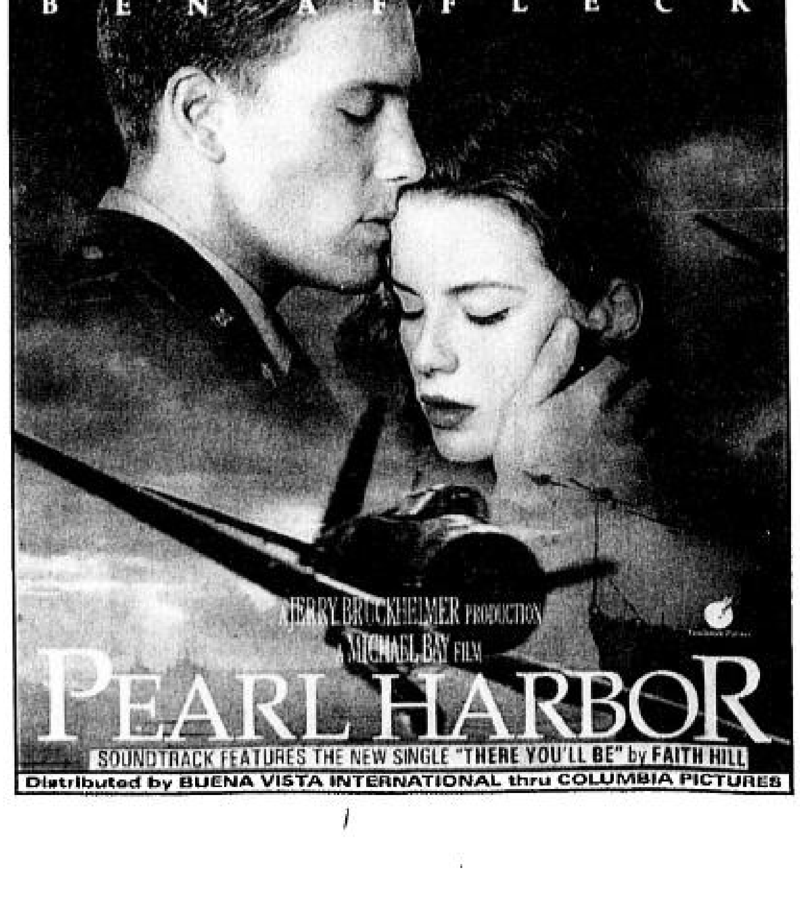

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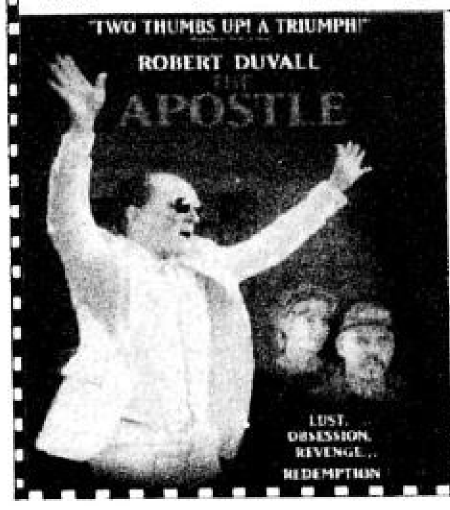

"TWO THUMBS UP! A TRIUMPH!"
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THE APOSTLE
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PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
ROBERT DUVALL
THE APOSTLE
After being squeezed out of his church by his ex-wife, a Texas fundamentalist preacher's alcohol-fueled rage sends him off the deep end. After beating her new beau into a coma, he flees to Louisiana and seizes the chance to reinvent himself as a devout "Apostle," founding a new church and captivating the citizenry while keeping his sins buried. Duvall, who also wrote and produced, is riveting in the title role.
ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATION
Best Actor - Robert Duvall

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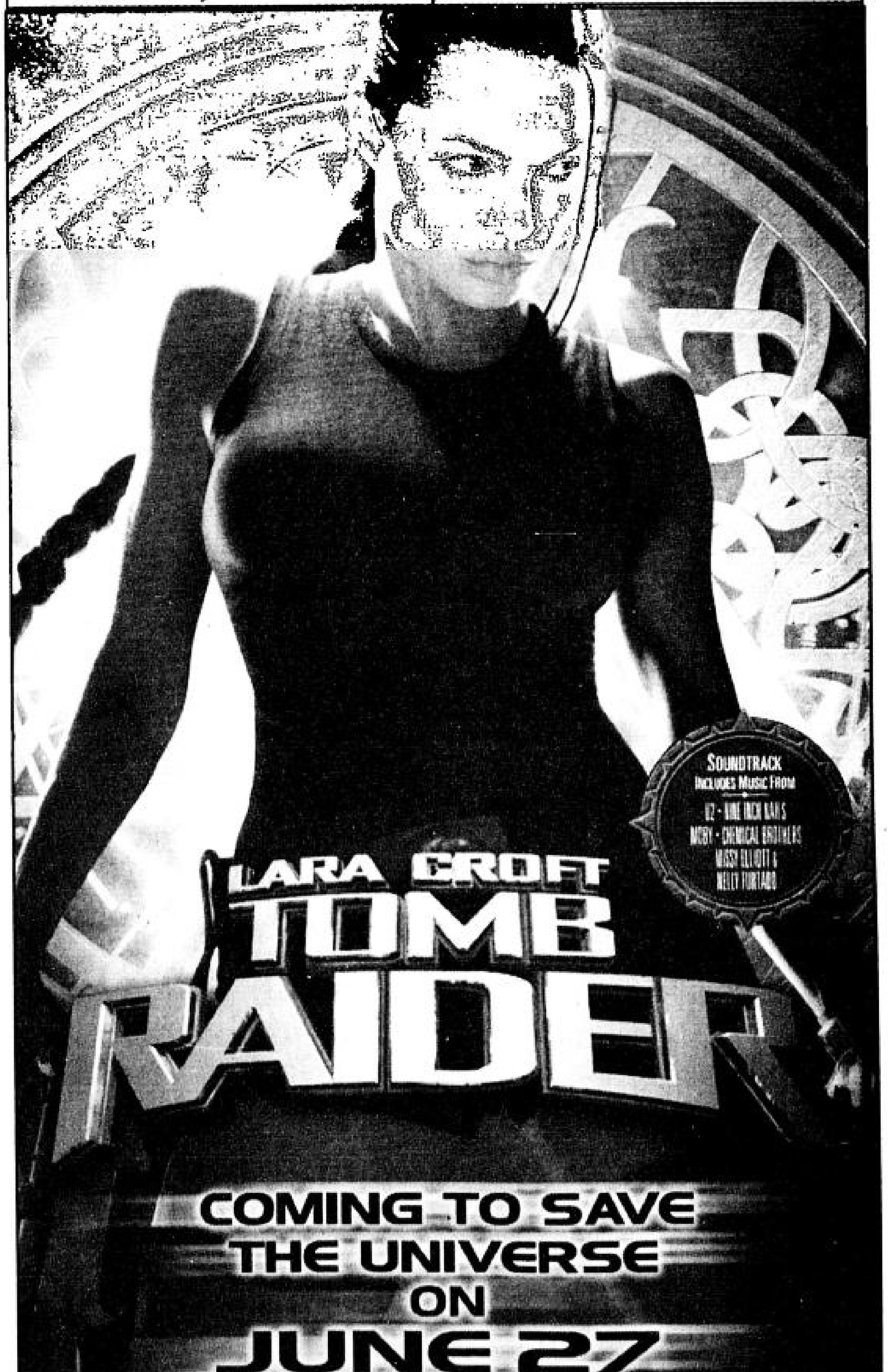

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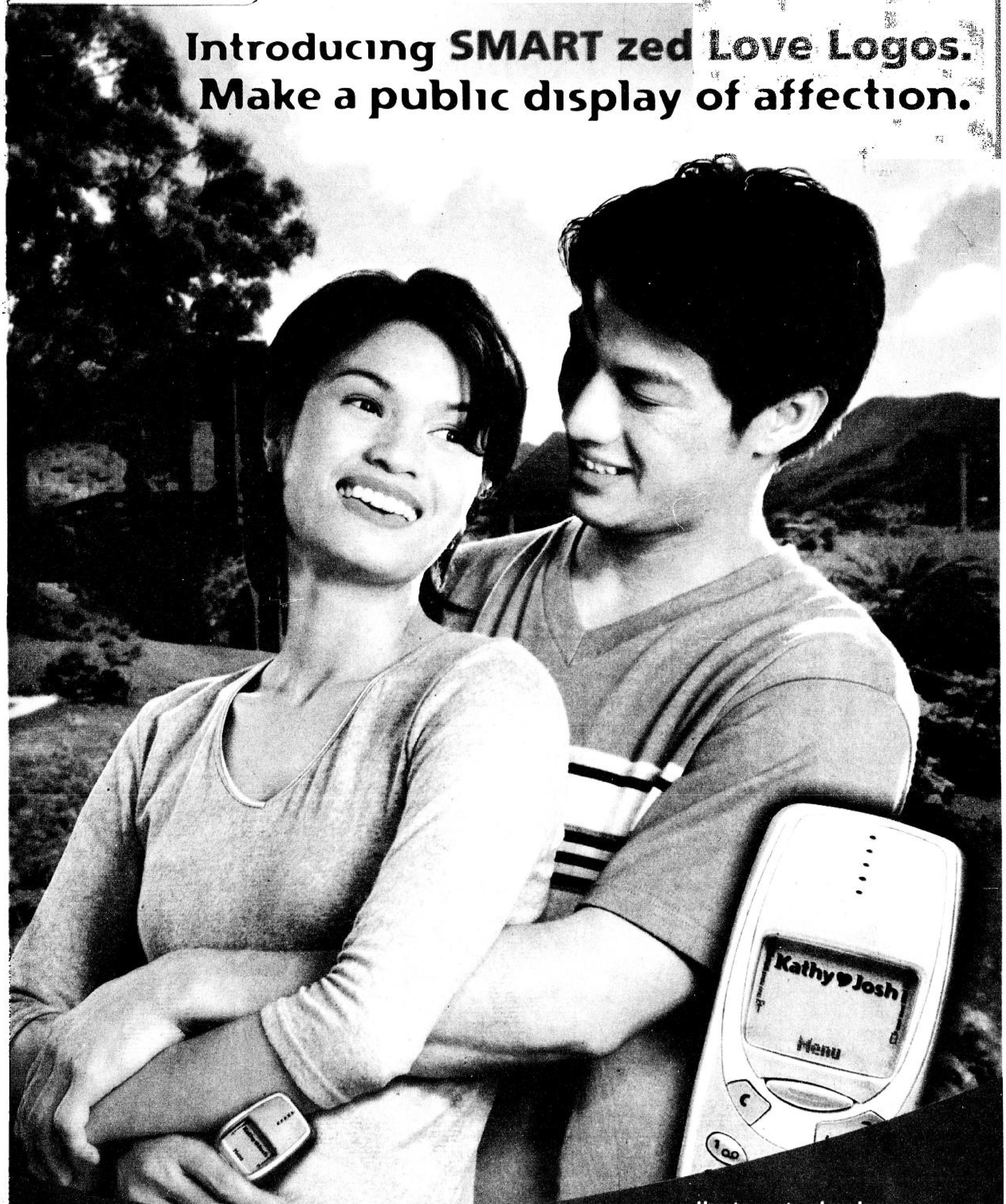
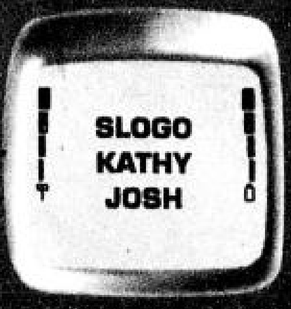


How to create a Love Logo:



Type in keyword and words you wish to use.
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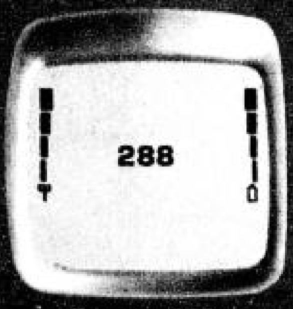

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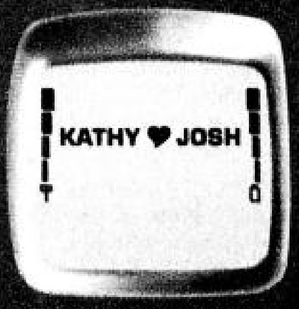

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

ENGINE OIL
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HONDA

Crush Sayyaf and save the peso–GMA

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

CRUSHING the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang and rescuing its two dozen-plus hostages in Basilan would help arrest the fall of the peso, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

The peso hit a low of 52.370 to a dollar in morning trade, its lowest intra-day level in five months, before closing at 52.32. It closed at 51.975 on Monday due to the unresolved hostage crisis.

Ms Macapagal told a news conference she believed the kidnapping problem in the South was a "contributory factor" to the peso's weakness.

"That's why we're addressing the problem with great determination."

The self-proclaimed Islamic independence fighters sent a chill down the spines of tourists and investors when they seized 20 tourists and hotel staff from an upmarket island resort in Palawan and then claimed to have beheaded one American. They still hold up to 26 American and Filipino hostages.

The peso weakened despite an appeal from the Bangko Sentral for banks to release some dollars into the system to prevent the local currency from further depreciating.

Traders said the peso would continue to lose value in the coming days unless the Bangko Sentral would intervene and provide much-needed liquidity into the system suffering from a tight dollar supply.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he saw no need to raise overnight interest rates.

He said the peso's drop was "not interest rate-driven," blaming it largely on weak regional currencies and the unresolved hostage crisis in Basilan.

Buenaventura said the central bank's policy-making Monetary Board will probably decide to keep overnight rates unchanged at its weekly meeting tomorrow.

The central bank has cut its key rates by 600 basis points since December with the last cut implemented May 18. It borrows at 9 percent overnight and lends at 11.25 percent.

Buenaventura said he expects the peso to recover "when things normalize."

Buenaventura added that a growing trade deficit was one of the factors hounding the local currency. The government yesterday released its latest external data showing a trade deficit of $447 million for the month of April.

Buenaventura said that with the slowdown in exports in recent months, the negative trade balance was likely to continue in June.

"The trade deficit is putting pressure on the peso because we are seeing a slowdown in inflow of funds," the central bank chief explained.

A decline in dollar inflow was partly to blame for the scarce dollars being traded at the Philippine Dealing System, a trader from a local bank agreed. "There is no liquidity, no infusion, no investments. Given all these, there is no reason for the peso to improve," the trader said.

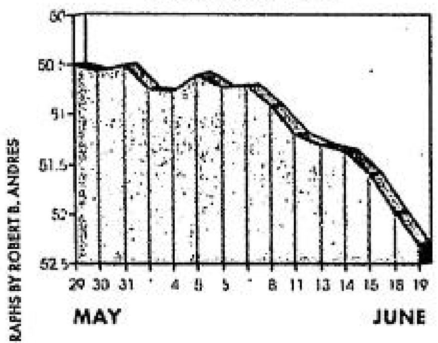
Another Bangko Sentral official pointed out that the central bank would rather stay away from dollar trading for the meantime to preserve its reserves. Instead, traders claimed the Bangko Sentral had called on banks and tried to use moral sua-

CRUSH/ B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

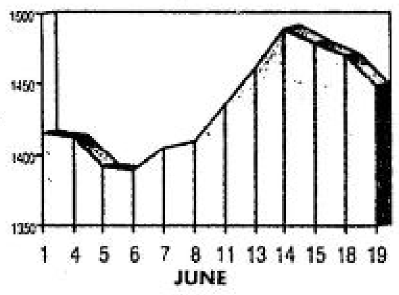
P52.32 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 19, 2001

Y123.24 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 123.24 as of 5 p.m., June 19, 2001

GOLD:$273.00/273.50
per ounce Hong Kong, June 19, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares end lower

SHARES ended sharply lower yesterday on profit taking following recent gains, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index broke its 1,450-point support to close down 22.19 points, or 1.5 percent, at 1,448.73, adding to Monday's 0.6-percent loss. Prior to the previous session's decline, the market gained 6.5 percent in six straight sessions.

"There should be a correction since the market has already gone up nearly 100 points since last Thursday," said Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas.

Weighing on the index was blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which lost P10, or 1.4 percent, at P715, following the 29-cent, or 2.1 percent, decline to $13.86 in the company's American Depositary Receipts in New York on Monday.

Violence in the country, marked by the increasing number of kidnapping cases and the Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis, also pressured the local equities market, Roxas said.

The falling peso also weakened sentiment in the stock market, traders said. The dollar reached as high as P52.37 in morning trading after closing at P51.975 Monday. *AP, Reuters*

Bayantel forms portal for construction industry

BAYANTRADE, a leading business-to-business (B2B) e-commerce hub, has expanded its services by creating the country's first online trading community for the construction industry.

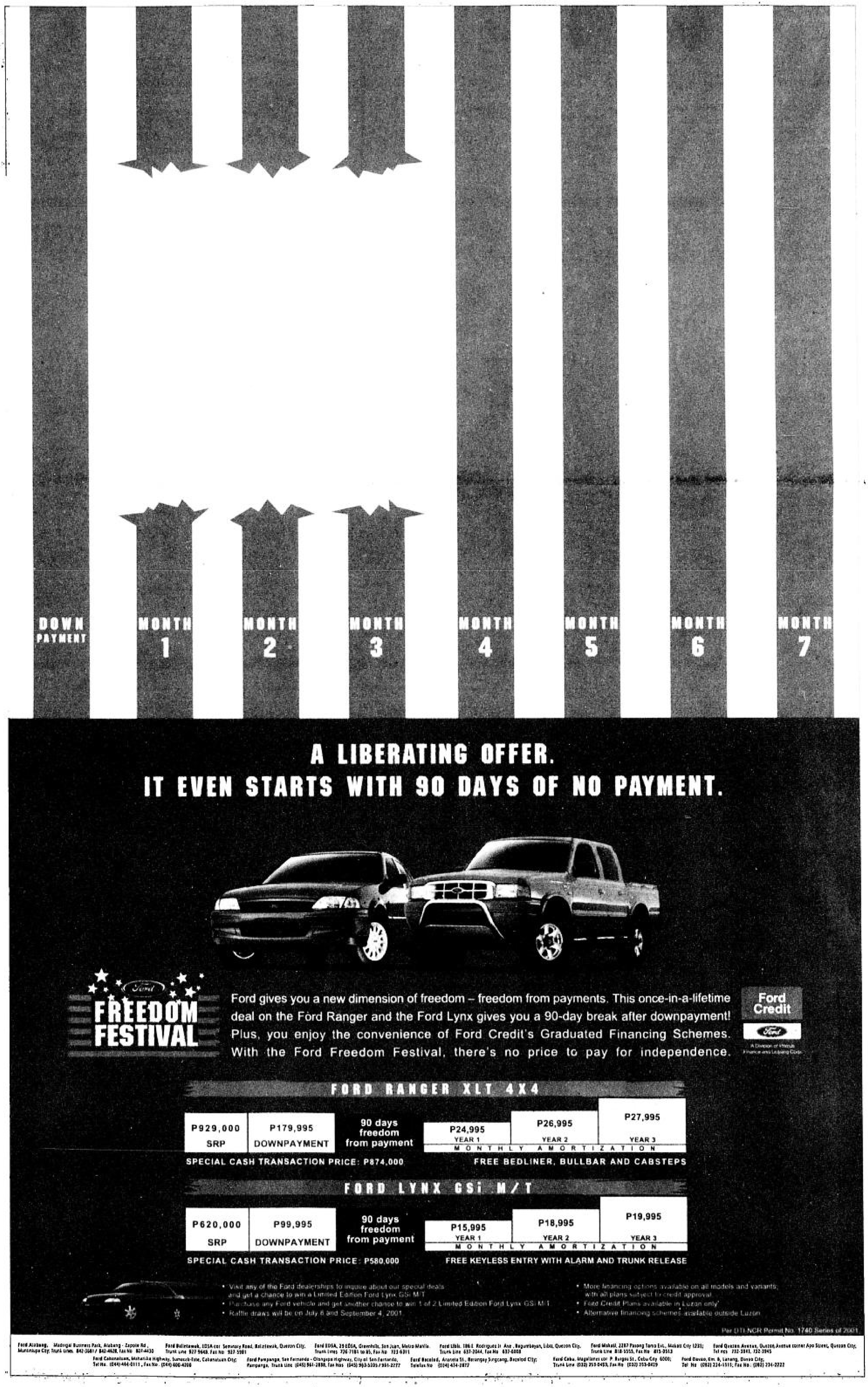
Industry giants Allnet.com Inc. (of Ayala Land), SM e-Ventures, Summit Internet Investments (of taipan John Gokongwei), Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., Greenfield Development Corp., EEI Corp. and DM Consunji Inc. have formed the alliance that will create the construction industry portal.

"In building this industry-specific marketplace, we wanted to make sure that we could address the quirks and the needs of the local construction industry," SM e-Ventures CEO George Yang said.

BayanTrade CEO Carol Carreon added that each industry needed tailor-made business solutions for their specific needs.

Through the project, BayanTrade will enable alliance members to save in terms of lower pur-

BAYANTEL/ B5



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RP posts trade gap of $447M as imports surge 6.5%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S import bill expanded by 6.5 percent to $2.69 billion in April compared to the same month last year, a welcome respite after four consecutive months of contraction triggered by the economic downturn in the United States and Japan, analysts said.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that along with the 15.8-percent slowdown in exports to $2.25 billion, the April import figure led to a $447-million trade deficit.

It was the first time in 24 months, or since April 1999, that the country reverted to a trade deficit.

From January to April, the country's total trade in goods amounted to $20.78 billion or 4.2 percent lower than the level posted the same period in 2000.

Imports dropped by 4.2 percent while exports rose by 4.1 percent, yielding a four-month trade surplus of $845 million which, however, stood 3 percent lower than the surplus in the same period last year.

Given the continuing weakness in the economy of the country's biggest trading partners—the United States and Japan—analysts said it might be too early to say whether the rise in imports in April would continue in the months ahead and perk up the export sector, a major engine of the country's economic growth.

Since the country's biggest export earners, particularly electronics, have a high import content, a weakness in the import bill is seen as reflective of the downturn in the domestic economy as well.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said the rise in imports in April did not necessarily indicate a reversal of the downtrend in exports.

"It is possible that the base last year was weak. Or if ever there was indeed a pick-up in imports in April, it could be a case of stockpiling or catching up with inventories to compensate for the time that enterprises could not do so because of the peso volatility," Vistan said.

For a genuine reversal to occur, Vistan said there should likewise be an expansion in the economy of the country's major trading partners. "I don't think we're seeing that reversal yet," he said.

Eagle Equities Joseph Roxas said the distribution of April imports should bode well for the economy, noting that payments for electronics and components rose 6.7 percent to $610.33 million during the month and accounted for 22.7 percent of the total import bill.

"April exports were down because imports during the previous months were low. The increase in April imports means that in the future there could be some improvement in export receipts," Roxas said.

Overall, payments for raw materials and intermediate goods consisting of unprocessed and semi-processed raw materials rose by 9.2 percent year-on-year, accounting for 40.2 percent of the total bill. On the other hand, capital goods led by telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery accounted for 37.2 percent of the aggregate bill as importation rose by 3.1 percent.

Purchases of mineral fuel and lubricant registered a 6.6-percent increase while expenditures for consumer goods increased by 11.6 percent.

For the month of April, Japan stood as the country's top source of imports with a 21.6-percent share of the total bill. Purchases of Japanese goods increased by 25.1 percent to $580.68 million while exports to Japan amounted to $376.59 million, resulting in a trade deficit of $204.1 million.

The United States, the second biggest source of imports, accounted for 17.3 percent with shipments valued at $466.10 million as against purchases amounting to $664.79 million. The Philippines thus enjoyed a trade surplus of $198.69 million for the month.

Other big sources of imports for the period were Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Hong Kong, People's Republic of China and Thailand.

"Overall, imports have gone into positive territory after four months of negative numbers," said Song Seng Wun, an economist at GK Goh in Singapore. "That's slightly a positive tone."

But the number appeared to be an aberration, and not a reflection of any pick-up in the economy, he said.

Imports in the Philippines are mostly of goods used as inputs in the export sector and any rise is seen as a positive development.

In the full year, the country's imports were likely to grow only about 0-2 percent, Song said, against a government target of about 3.2 percent.

Exports were likely to contract 10-12 percent against the government's forecast of 0-1 percent growth, he said.

Also downplaying the rise in imports in April was John Cairns, a foreign economist at IDEAglobal in Singapore.

"The import figure was definitely higher than most people had expected," Cairns said.

"But the rise is nothing substantial . . . it's within the normal limits of fluctuation of month to month. I certainly wouldn't ascribe too much to it.

"It certainly doesn't indicate continued buoyant imports. I think imports will continue to slow given the struggling economy and weak peso."

The peso fell through the 52 level to the dollar in early trade yesterday, a five-month low.

Cairns said he did not have a target on the exchange rate but added: "Certainly in the near term we see it going down.

"We certainly aren't anywhere near the bottom of this cycle of falling exports, the falling peso. We expect all those will be much lower, which would drag import growth down."

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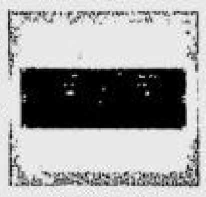
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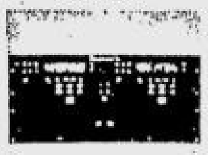
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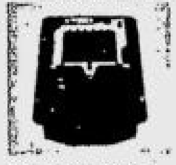
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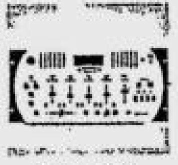
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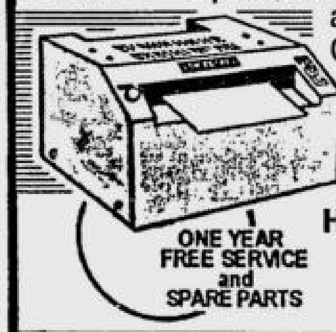
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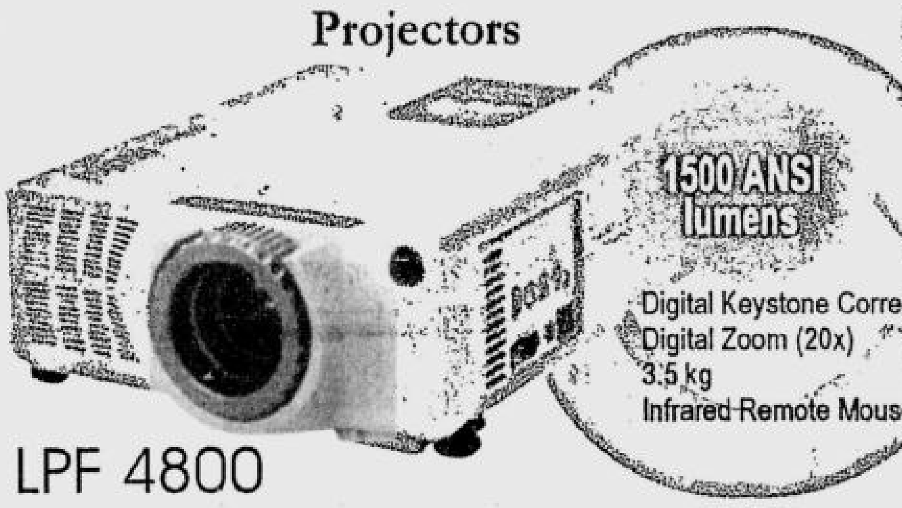
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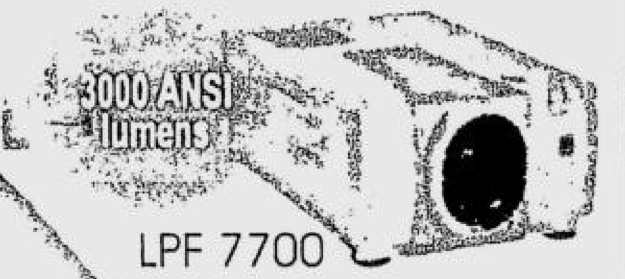
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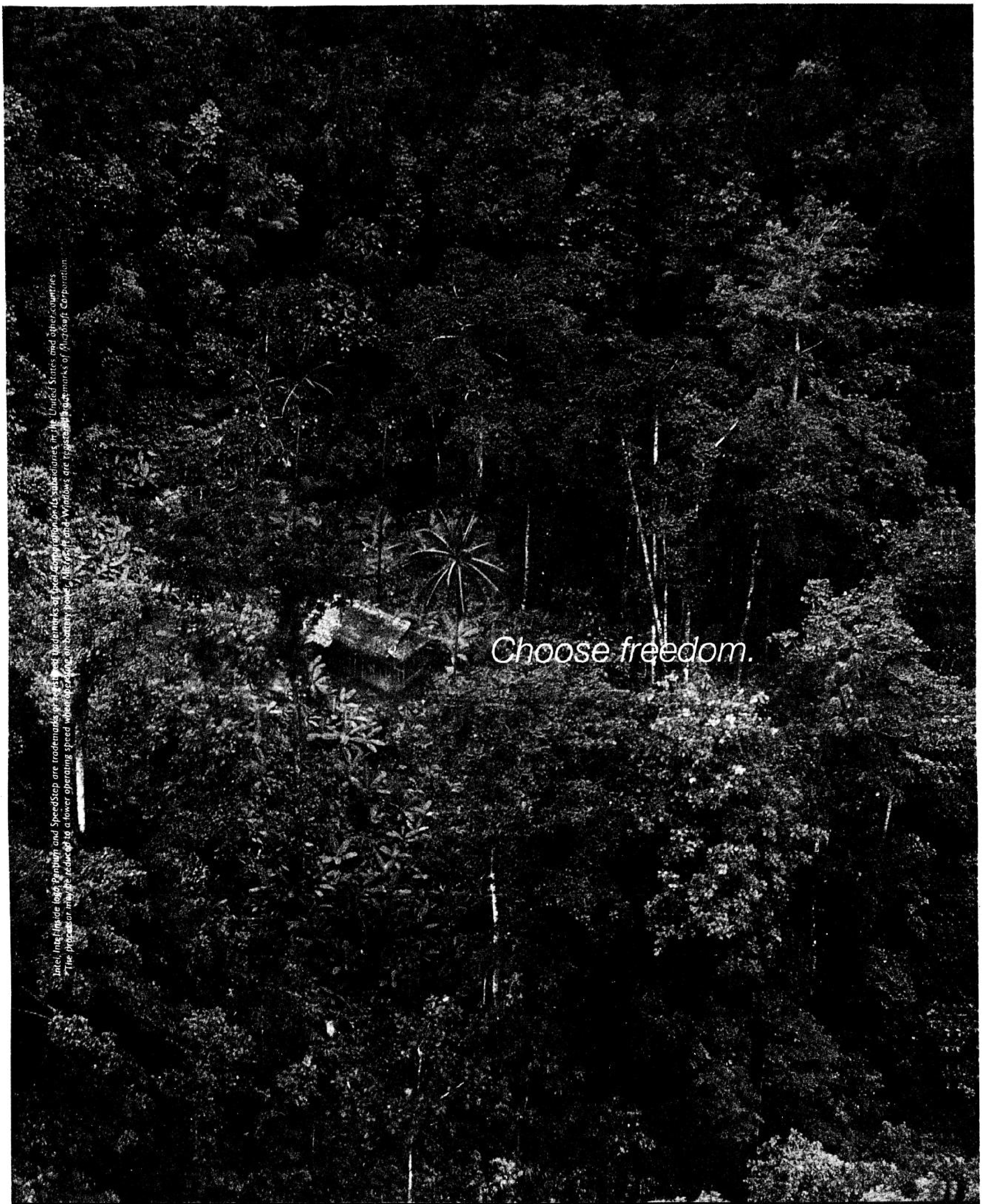

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, June 19, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	14,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	76	76.5	75	76	636,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40.5	40.5	40	40	100,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	217	218	215	216	55,460
Prudential Bank	450	450	450	450	13,990
Philippine National Bank	47	47	47	47	79,900
Security Bank Corp.	19.75	20.75	19.75	20.75	4,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	25	26	4,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1350	1355	1350	1350	3,900
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1110	1110	1105	1105	14,730
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	40	39.5	39.5	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.52	0.55	1,210,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	650	650	650	60
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	4,000
Piltel	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.65	40,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	720	720	710	715	40,220
Ivantage Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.88	0.88	270,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.039	0.04	125,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	14,300
Manila Electric Co. B	56	56	55.5	56	267,400
Petron Corp.	2.26	2.26	2.1	2.2	25,273,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	70,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	3	2.65	2.75	18,822,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.45	0.49	0.45	0.49	250,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	45,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.14	1.18	1.14	1.18	4,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	1,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.1	4.1	4	4.05	554,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	152,300
San Miguel Corp. A	42.5	43	42.5	43	191,500
San Miguel Corp. B	48	48.5	48	48	614,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.76	0.79	0.76	0.79	50,000
Ayala Corp.	7.1	7.1	7	7.1	3,043,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.5	1.5	1.46	1.48	1,012,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.5	11	11	3,700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.88	0.88	300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.52	0.52	4,850,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.006	0.006	0.006	12,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.72	11,805,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	3,140,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.05	1,500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	30,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26	26	25.5	26	176,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	230,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
Ionics Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	25,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc	2.08	2.12	2.08	2.12	191,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.8	1,370,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	15,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.48	0.48	5,080,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	30,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	220,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.2	5	5	30,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.3	4,880,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	110,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	4,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	6,000
Music Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.12	2.12	16,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	240,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.0975	0.095	0.0975	600,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.87	0.9	0.87	0.9	80,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	7,500
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.57	1,260,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.54	0.54	2,190,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.46	600,000
Manila Jockey Club	16	16	16	10	3,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	3,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40	40	40	40	140,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	495	495	495	495	80
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	680	680	680	680	610
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	8,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	105,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	3,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.031	38,000,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	370	370	350	370	4,510
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	12,259,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	890,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.34	6,540,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.16	2.2	5,909,000
City & Land Developers	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	1,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	230,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.105	0.11	0.105	0.11	50,000
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	2,009,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.085	0.085	0.0825	0.085	1,700,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	15,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	15,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.048	0.05	0.04	0.045	101,800,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.05	0.05	0.047	0.047	1,100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.185	2,300,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	1,140,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	70,000,000
Omico Corpor.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.31	0.36	0.27	0.36	5,150,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.38	0.29	0.37	10,050,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	20,000,000
Interport Res B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	0.0046	0.004	0.004	35,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	9,800,000

AIG to infuse ₱100M into thrift bank

By Elena R. Torrijos

AMERICAN International Group is planning to invest, through Philippine American Life and General Assurance Co. and AIG Consumer Group, about P100 million to raise the capital of thrift bank unit Philam Savings Bank.

Philamlife and AIG Consumer Group last year pumped in P100 million to bring the bank's capital base to P437 million.

In a briefing with reporters at the launching of Philam Savings' new products, Philam Savings vice chair Pao Yin Chen said that AIG would invest at least another P100 million this year in order to support the thrift bank's growth strategy.

Philam Savings Bank yesterday launched AIG Preferred Banking, which according to its president Rolando Tanchanco, was designed to cater to the needs of high net worth individuals. This, he said, was in line with the bank's bid to build its deposit base.

Clients who maintain a minimum maintaining balance of P1 million will be assigned their own relationship manager to take care of all their banking needs, including the provision of up-to-date financial information, periodic financial planning and portfolio review.

Under AIG Preferred Banking, Philam Savings is offering AIG Preferred Flexi Saver, which allows automatic monthly premium rate adjustments.

"We have always believed in the wisdom of continuously adapting our products and services to the needs of our customers," Jose Cuisia, president and chief executive of Philamlife and Philam Savings Bank chair, said.

Tanchangco disclosed that the bank's deposit base in the first five months of this year had grown 73 percent from the same period last year partly because of the soft launch of AIG Preferred Banking in April.

Tanchangco also said the bank was considering relocating some of its branches to better locations.

DISCLOSURES

GRAND Plaza Hotel Corp. will reduce its authorized capital stock from P1.5 million to P1.27 million.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Corro-Coat Inc.** were Corazon Buenconsejo, Jose Fernando Camus, John Lao, Renato Paras, Arthur Ponsaran and Sonia Salvador.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Properties Inc. announced that Chee Fook Meng has ceased to be the company's treasurer and corporate information officer since June 6.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Manila Broadcasting Corp.** were Fred Elizalde, Ruperto Nicdao Jr., Hadrian Arroyo, Eduardo Cordova, Jose Taruc, George Goduco, Fred Davis, Juan Manuel Elizalde and Julio Macuja II.

* * *

ITOGON-SUYOC Mines Inc. denied having any knowledge regarding rumors that **Shell Philippines Petroleum Corp.** will be using it as a vehicle for backdoor listing.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Philippine Racing Club Inc.** were Santiago Cua, Tam Cheok Wing, Exequiel Robles, Santiago Cua Jr., Liberato Robles, Miguel Ocampo Tan, Rolando Castro and Solomon Cua.

* * *

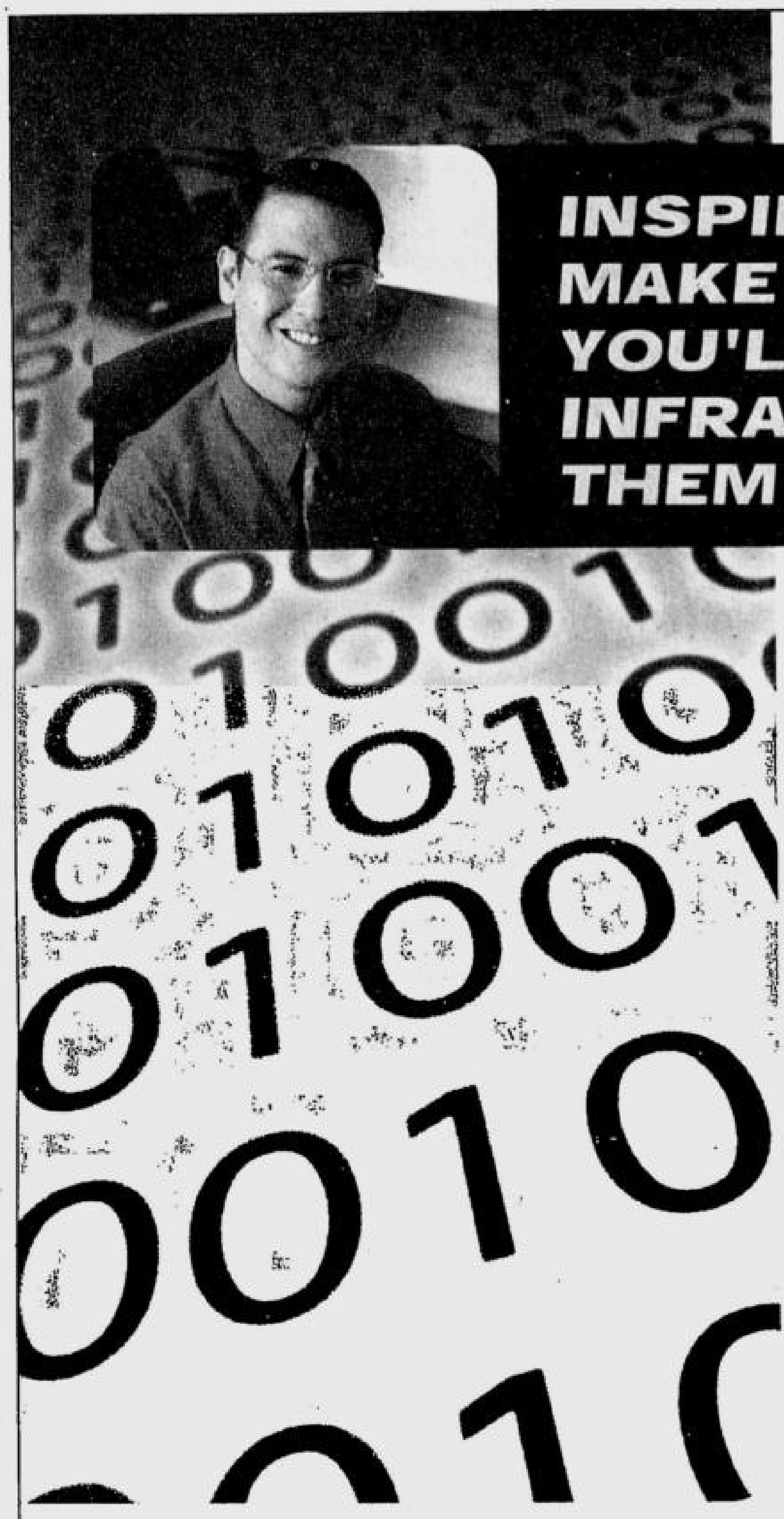
DMCI Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from June 27 to July 25.

* * *

ORIENTAL Petroleum and Minerals Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from June 29 to July 27.

* * *

VITARICH Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 29, 2 p.m. at the Ballroom of Mandarin Oriental Hotel. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*



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Agenda

	MAIN TENT
8:00 - 8:30	Registration
8:30 - 8:40	Welcome Remarks
8:40 - 9:20	It's a Different Kind of World. You Need a Different Kind of Software
9:20 - 9:40	Your Web Services Database: DB2 Universal Database V7.2
9:40 - 10:00	Dynamic eBusiness Websphere Application Server V4.0
10:00 - 11:00	Break

	BREAKOUT SESSION			
	New Economy Tools Venue: Ballroom 1	What Every IT Manager Should Know Venue Ballroom 2	The next step in Business Intelligence Venue. Ballroom 3	eCommunity Venue: Renaissance Function Room
11:00 - 11:45	Anywhere you Are Dial M for Mobile	What if my database is not DB2?	eAnalytics for your Website	B2B eCommerce
11:45 - 12:30	End User Experience: Keep your customers coming back to your site	Backend Integration	Real Time Data Mining	eCommunity for Educators and Techies
12:30 - 12:40	CLOSING REMARKS			

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Date : 22nd June, 2001, Friday
Time : 8.00 am - 12.30 nn

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Shop attack

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

PRIVATELY, the management of S&R Price Membership Club were telling their customers that the wildly successful warehouse club should be reopened today, notwithstanding the court case filed by the spurned previous local partner. They were wrong.

The Fort Bonifacio store reopened by 2 p.m. yesterday, a day earlier than they had projected.

The positive spin to this retailing wrinkle is that the Macapagal-Arroyo administration has the creativity and the decisiveness to settle what is considered the test case for the country's retail trade liberalization law.

The negative spin is that a small-town judge in this country can still order a multibillion-peso business closed for 15 days, TROd as in TKOd, while the court awaits the defendants to file their counterclaims.

Judging from its opening-day stampede, consumers were willing to discount the store's rumored Erap links/ownership just to get their hands on what they consider a bargain. The sustained warm reception until its temporary court-ordered closure on Friday has reportedly not dampened its American principals' enthusiasm for the country; S&R still plans to open within two years, 10 stores all over Metro Manila and key provincial cities.

(Tip: The American chain is on the lookout for two-hectare sized properties for possible sites.)

The known local partners to this venture are Robert Siy, the proprietor of Century, the popular Chinese restaurant of Century Park Hotel, and William Go of Go Thong shipping lines. Siy's son-in-law, Mark Leviste (son of Batangas' Conrad Leviste), is also very much involved in the day-to-day operations, so we heard.

No free lunch

IF THERE is a feeling of general malaise among the leading Chinoy restaurants and steak houses in the city, it is because they have lost the lucrative Pagcor account since the changeover in Malacañang.

Pagcor, to those not into casino gambling, hands out VIP cards to select high-rollers that enable these gamblers to treat their friends to gorge for free in, say, Melo's, Century, the Heritage's Hua Ting, and the Holiday Inn Rotisserie.

The free-meal cards are not unlike the courtesy limousines and presidential suites extended by Vegas casinos to valued guests, whose common denominator is that they all play and, inevitably, lose millions. The cards are, in other words, both a marketing come-on and a salve to bruised egos and wallets.

Since his assumption to power, new Pagcor chair Efren Genuino restricted the issuance of those cards and, according to the grapevine, cancelled the signing privileges to the four above-named restaurants.

It did not help, of course, that two of the establishments were either closely linked with or the favorite of you-know-who and his boisterous circle.

Heard through the grapevine

THE ERAP-APPOINTED holdover board at Philcomsat is trying to dispose of the company jet, a Citation, before Malacañang announces a new set of appointees. Among the prospective buyers who had been approached include PLDT's Manuel Pangilinan.

* * *

Notice to readers: If this column is shorter than the usual, it is because we had been under the weather in the past days.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Crush Sayyaf . . .

(From page B1)

sion for them to unload some of their dollar holdings to solve the shortage.

Buenaventura, however, denied calling banks and convincing them to sell. "Banks do not have a large position on forex right now and we don't see any speculative outflow," he said.

The central bank chief had maintained that the peso's weakness was largely influenced by declining regional currencies as well as by the unresolved hostage crisis.

He admitted the peso's fall had accelerated in the last few days compared to regional currencies because of the peace-and-order problems.

The Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis had been affecting the tourism industry and was also seen to prevent foreign investors from parking their money in the Philippines.

A trader from a foreign bank, however, stressed that more than the bad news, what had been pushing the peso down was the liquidity problem in the market.

"It is really a question of demand and supply now rather than peace and order," he said.

Traders explained that demand for dollars had been increasing in the local market as companies started to settle their mid-year obligations as well as prepare for their inventory in the second half of the year.

As demand rose, traders said, the public held on to their dollars expecting a continued peso weakness in the coming days given the unresolved Abu Sayyaf situation. *With a report from AFP*

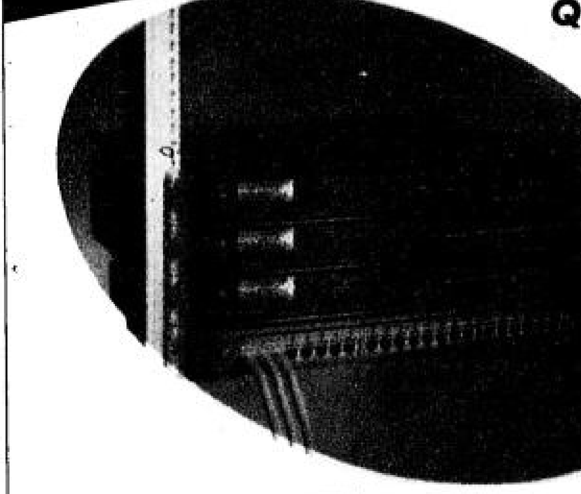
Bayantel forms portal for construction industry

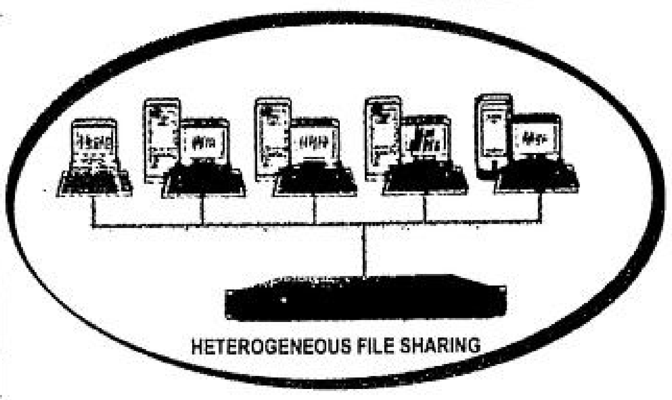
(From page B1)

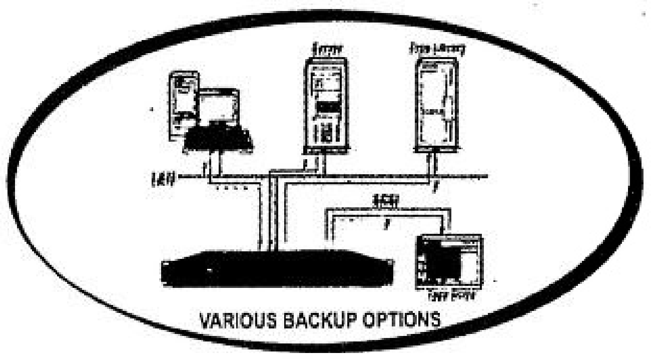
chasing costs, greater process efficiency and reduced delays in business operations.

"The portal will allow members to share information, buy and sell construction direct materials from one virtual location and manage the construction projects online," he added.

"We believe that B2B commerce will continue to grow in significance," BayanTrade chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II said in a speech during BayanTrade's first anniversary celebration yesterday.







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CURRENCIES

19-Jun-01

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.161036	1.000000	51.8190
Japan	Yen	0.000123	0.000106	0.0055
United Kingdom	Pound	1.632532	1.406100	72.8627
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.149042	0.128370	6.6520
Switzerland	Franc	0.653663	0.563000	29.1741
Canada	Dollar	0.756917	0.651933	33.7825
Singapore	Dollar	0.639055	0.550418	28.5221
Australia	Dollar	0.608509	0.524109	27.1588
Bahrain	Dinar	3.079834	2.652661	137.4582
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.309610	0.266667	13.8184
Brunei	Dollar	0.637231	0.548847	28.4407
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000089	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.025630	0.022075	1.1439
UAE	Dirham	0.316186	0.272331	14.1119
Korea	Won	0.000900	0.000775	0.0402
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.861300	44.6317
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.440376	22.8198
France	Franc	0.152450	0.131304	6.8040
Netherlands	Guilder	0.511292	0.440376	22.8198
Austria	Schilling	0.152449	0.131304	6.8040
Belgium	Franc	0.453780	0.390841	20.2530
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000445	0.0231
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.144860	7.5065
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004296	0.2226
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005177	0.2683
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021351	1.1064
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.093625	56.6706

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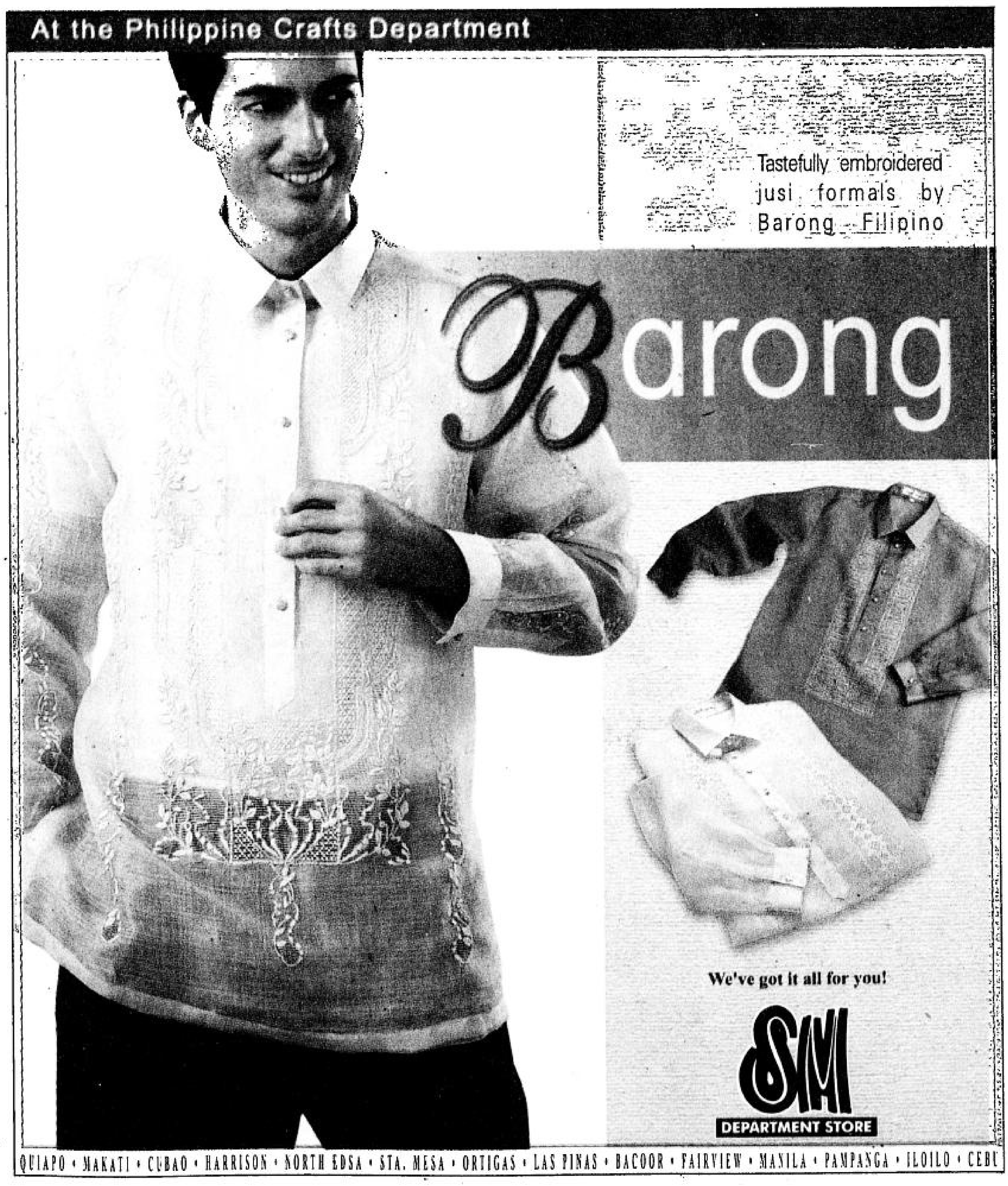

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Republic Asahi's Aico venture OKd

THE CABINET-LEVEL Tariff and Related Matters has approved a pan-Asean industrial partnership between Republic Asahi Glass' Corp. of the Philippines and Thai Glass Co. Ltd. to facilitate the shipment of glass products at preferential tariffs between the two parties.

Based on the proposed Asean Industrial Cooperation project, Republic Asahi would export rear windshield safety glass to Thailand while Thai Glass would ship safety glass for appliances to the Philippines.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the TRM approved the project even though it was decidedly skewed in favor of Thai Glass (which would ship $487,00 worth of appliance glass a year versus imports of $200,000 worth of auto safety glass).

The government rarely approves industrial sharing agreements in the region unless these deals reflect a positive trade balance in favor of the Philippines.

In justifying the TRM's decision, Roxas said the country needed to get appliance glass as part of its aim to develop the local kitchen appliance industry. Tempered glass is one of the key inputs in the industry.

The government is expected to issue an executive order to be signed by the President to effect the deal.

Aico is the latest version of the region's industrial cooperation program that began with the Asean Industrial Joint Venture and Brand-to-Brand Complementation scheme in the late 1980s.

The program is geared toward allowing multinational corporations to enjoy preferred duties on inter-regional trade of their products well ahead of the Asean Free Trade Area in 2003.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Gov't urged to adopt national minerals policy

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CHAMBER of Mines is urging the Macapagal administration to adopt a national minerals policy that will encourage responsible mining among explorers and strengthen the monitoring activities of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB).

The Chamber expressed confidence that a National Minerals Policy would pave the way for the development of at least five world-class mines and five middle-tier projects that could generate at least $4 billion in new investments, $3 billion in annual exports, and P30 billion in annual taxes in the next 10 to 20 years.

In a position paper submitted to the Board of Investments, the Chamber of Mines said the mining industry needed the government's full backing in order to encourage foreign mining firms to undertake high-risk, capital-intensive projects in the country.

The Chamber said that it has become more imperative for the government to resolve the impasse on the mining industry considering weakening export revenues, widening budget deficit, and the pressing need to spur economic development and alleviate poverty.

The Chamber described the investment climate for mining in the country as "decidedly hostile" in view of the legal uncertainty hounding the industry and the "intense misinformation" campaign being waged by anti-mining groups.

It noted that an anti-mining NGO has questioned the constitutionality of the 1995 Mining Act and the financial and technical assistance agreements that were meant to open the doors to foreign investors to undertake huge mining projects in the country. This has forced foreign mining firms to defer their exploration projects in the country until these legal questions are solved.

The Chamber said that instead of protecting the indigenous people groups' right to say yes or no to a project, the anti-mining groups have deprived these groups of their right.

The Chamber said the process of obtaining consent was so "unwieldy" that it has effectively denied the indigenous people from deciding whether to allow their lands in exchange for a minimum share of one percent of gross revenues.

The Chamber said that the anti-mining groups emphasized past practices of the industry when the Mining Act specifically imposes Best Mining Practices in local projects.

"While some mining firms in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia still dispose their tailings down river systems, this is not possible in the Philippines," the Chamber said. "The government should investigate closely the allegations against the industry by anti-mining groups but it should give the industry the benefit of the doubt."

The local mining industry is encouraging the government to pursue the immediate resolution of the Supreme Court case on the Mining Act and FTAA as well as streamline the procedures in obtaining clearances for mining projects by establishing a one-stop shop."

Perks sought to boost oil drilling sector

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PNOC Exploration Co. president Rufino Bomasang said new incentives might be needed to boost the sluggish exploration activities in the country.

Bomasang said last week the Philippines might have better existing terms compared to its neighbors, but additional incentives "would be good."

Exploration activities started to wane in the late 1990s as expected major oil finds turned out dry.

In his report during PNOC-EC's stockholders meeting, Bomasang said PNOC-EDC had only one oil discovery between 1992 and 2000.

"We are still one of the best, definitely much better than Indonesia or Malaysia, in terms of incentives," he said.

Bomasang, however, admitted the Philippines did not have the track record of Indonesia and Malaysia in terms of oil discoveries. "That's why even with less attractive terms, exploration companies still go there (Indonesia and Malaysia)."

The PNOC-EC chief said industry players have been pushing for amendments to Presidential Decree No. 87, the law that governs oil exploration activities in the country. The industry wants additional perks for exploration projects, particularly on cost-recovery. Exploration companies want a provision in the law that will allow them to recover expenses incurred in unsuccessful concessions from profitable concessions regardless of location.

At present, an exploration company is allowed to recover the cost incurred in unprofitable areas from the gains made in successful areas but only in the same concession block. This is called the "ring-fenced" policy on cost recovery, he said.

Bomasang said it might be wise to also improve the incentive package for gas exploration and development projects since PD 87 was basically a law on oil exploration.

"We need to amend that (the law) to improve the terms for gas exploration because it is an entirely different product," he said.

"Once you flow oil, it can be loaded in a tanker and shipped anywhere in the world. For gas, you need to develop the market and the infrastructure to bring it to the market. The economics are different," he explained.

Bomasang said improving the incentive package for gas exploration and development should be given the highest priority because of the Malampaya project and the advantages of natural gas in general.

GOINGS-ON

AyalaPort's new GM

AYALAPORT Makati Inc. (APMI) recently announced the appointment of Brigs M. Merin, as general manager. APMI is a joint venture among iAyala, the investment arm of Ayala Corp. in the Internet related businesses; ALINet, the technology company of Ayala Land Inc., and Internet Initiative Japan, Crosswave Communications, and IIJ Technology.

Merin comes to AyalaPort Makati Inc. with a solid IT background and extensive experience in sales and marketing as well as applications development. He has 17 years of experience in consultancy, consumer/beverage manufacturing and IT companies.

Merin is a welcome addition to the APMI team responsible for the launching of the first full-scale "purpose built" Internet data center in Makati. APMI will be fully operational in September this year.

DBP to arrange P1-B IT loan

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines arranged recently a syndicated loan and mortgage trust indenture agreement for a P1-billion term loan to the Northgate Cyberzone IT project under Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) facility.

The loan will be used to partially finance the 18.7-hectare park, an IT corridor designed to provide high-tech working environment complemented by superior lifestyle amenities and comprehensive infrastructure. DBP partners with ATR Kim-Eng Fixed Income Inc., as co-arranger, and participating lender-banks Global Bank, Metrobank, Banco de Oro, Unicapital, Asia United Bank, Landbank and Malayan Savings and Mortgage Bank.

Risk management forum

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry, through its banking finance division, is holding a forum on "Strategic Approaches on Enterprise-Wide Risk Management" on June 26 at the Camella/Dahlia Room of the Dusit Hotel Nikko.

PCCI president Miguel Varela, citing the importance of risk management, stressed that a holistic, consistent and integrated model of risk management must be adopted to satisfy modern business organization's need to respond to risks and at the same time help companies keep up with the challenges of globalization.

Peter B. Favila, PCCI vice president for banking and finance, said that the forum was timely considering the pace that world economies are integrating.

The half-day forum aims to inform and orient participants of the importance of risk management for effective business management, brief participants of the strategic approaches and solutions in addressing risks and provide a venue for participants to raise concerns and interact with risk management experts.

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BSP chides MRTC for coin fault-finding

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas turned the table yesterday on Metro Rail Transit Corp., saying it had never been remiss in its duty to supply coins to the train operator.

According to BSP director for cash management Teresita Manigque, the central bank's cash department has been providing MRTC with enough P1, P5 and 25-centavo coins to meet its passengers' needs.

Manigque belied MRTC's statement that the BSP failed to supply it with enough coins after its minting plant in Quezon City broke down. She stressed that the central bank did not have any problem with its minting plant.

Under an agreement signed in December last year, the BSP is committed to supplying MRTC with coins through Philippine National Bank.

A central bank official, who asked that he not be named, said MRTC should stop using its supposed coin shortage problem as an excuse to raise its rates.

Acting Metro Star Express general manager Mario Miranda earlier blamed the central bank for MRTC's coin shortage problem. He said the company had recently been running out of coins to use as change for its passengers.

Miranda said one solution to the problem would be to raise MRTC's rates to lessen the use of coins and small notes.

MRTC currently charges a minimum fare of P9.50 and an additional 50 centavos for each terminal.

BEATING TRO

S&R Price reopens doors

By Elena R. Torrijos

S&R PRICE Membership Shopping, a subsidiary of Pricesmart Inc., yesterday reopened its doors after securing from the Court of Appeals an order preventing a lower court from shutting it down for 17 days.

The appellate court's order was welcome news to over 50,000 S&R Price cardholders waiting to shop at the company's 5,000-square-meter Fort Bonifacio warehouse-store.

The Las Piñas Regional Trial Court issued Friday a temporary restraining order against S&R Price as a result of a lawsuit filed by Ever Gotesco Resources and Holdings Inc.

Ever Gotesco claimed it had the exclusive right to operate S&R Price shopping-type stores in the Philippines.

Ever Gotesco is owned by Chinese-Filipino retailer Jose Go, who is out on bail for allegedly defrauding thousands of depositors of shuttered lender Orient Commercial Banking Corp. The company was once a licensee of S&R Price's parent company, Pricesmart.

On Monday, S&R Price's lawyers filed an urgent appeal asking the Court of Appeals to overturn the Las Piñas court's ruling, saying their client was denied due process and that the restraining order had defects.

The appellate court sided with S&R Price. It prevented the lower court from enforcing its restraining order against S&R Price and "proceeding any further" with Ever Gotesco's civil case. It scheduled a hearing on July 24 to review S&R Price's request for a preliminary injunction.

"We will not compromise our standards or our commitment to serve the Filipino consumer. I want to thank our members and local partners for their support and understanding," Benjamin Woods, Pricesmart's Philippine manager, said in a statement.

As the first foreign retailer to operate in the Philippines under a recently enacted trade liberalization law, Pricesmart's experience could have far reaching significance regarding foreign investments in the Philippines, S&R Price said in a statement.

The trade and justice departments earlier expressed concern over the lower court's intervention in the S&R Price dispute. A long-drawn case that could derail Pricesmart's foray into the local retail industry would dampen investors' interest in the Philippines, trade and justice officials warned.

Woods explained that in early 1998, Pricesmart terminated its licensee agreement with Ever Gotesco. The Go-owned firm failed to capitalize the business and pay bills on merchandise it purchased from Pricesmart.

S&R Price chair William Go said S&R Price would establish 10 stores in the Philippines over a three-year period.

Each store, costing anywhere from $7.5 million to $10 million, is expected to generate some 2,000 to 2,500 jobs and contribute over $5 million a year in government revenue from value-added taxes.

S&R Price has three more warehouses under construction.

Gov't foreign, local debts reach ₱2.2T

THE COUNTRY'S debt stock swelled by 15 percent to P2.179 trillion in the first quarter this year compared to year-ago level of about P1.9 trillion, reflecting the government's massive local borrowings to finance the widening budget gap.

Compared to end-2000 level, however, the country's debt stock grew by P12.14 billion from P2.166 trillion.

The Bureau of Treasury's debt stock record includes the government's local and foreign borrowings. It, however, does not include the liabilities of the private sector.

An official pointed out that the government's debts in the first quarter went up due to the Macapagal administration's dependence on domestic borrowings to finance the deficit.

Of the P196 billion programmed borrowings of the government, 60 percent will come from the domestic market while the rest will come from foreign sources.

Unlike in the previous years, when foreign borrowings usually come in during the first half of the year, the Macapagal administration decided to focus on local sources in the first semester to take advantage of the declining local interest rates.

The government borrows about P7 billion weekly from the private sector by issuing treasury bills and bonds.

Foreign loans accounted for 48 percent of the total debt stock or about P1.056 trillion. The balance represents domestic loans equivalent to about P1.122 trillion.

The securities issued by the government that remained outstanding as of end-March amounted to P1.088 trillion, up P55 billion from end-2000 level of P1.033 trillion. *Clarissa S. Batino*

GMA OKs bond float for Palawan

By Jofelle Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo approved the other day the Palawan Provincial Government's plan to float Yankee bonds while waiting for its share in the Malampaya natural gas project's revenues.

The natural gas project of Shell Philippinex Exploration BV will contribute to Palawan almost $1.2 billion in royalty in 20 years. The national government stands to generate $8.1 billion over the same period.

Palawan will start getting its share from the project in 2003.

Palawan aims to generate $100 million from the bond float which it will pay through its expected earnings from the Malampaya natural gas project.

The bond flotation was supposed to be held last year but was put aside due to opposition by certain solons. The provincial government claimed the opposition was politically motivated.

"Through modern financing schemes, local government units can now enter into a bond flotation. What we need to do is to assure that Palawan will get its share from Malampaya," the President said.

She commented that one of the biggest revenues the country would be getting in the future would come from the natural resources of Palawan.

"It is more than what Palawan will get from tourism," Ms Macapagal said.

"The governor (of Palawan) never actually discussed the bond flotation with the President but he talked with Finance Secretary Jose Camacho and he promised to study different financial schemes. We are just so happy about it," provincial information officer Rolando Bonoan said.

Palawan intends to use the proceeds of the flotation in financing the province's electrification and infrastructure projects.

He said the provincial government deemed it fit to resort to the fastest way of raising funds for these projects.

"If we wait until the time we get our share (from Malampaya), the cost of the materials for electrification and infrastructure might have already doubled. We might as well pay interests on our loans which will eventually be offset by the benefits we will be getting," Bonoan said.

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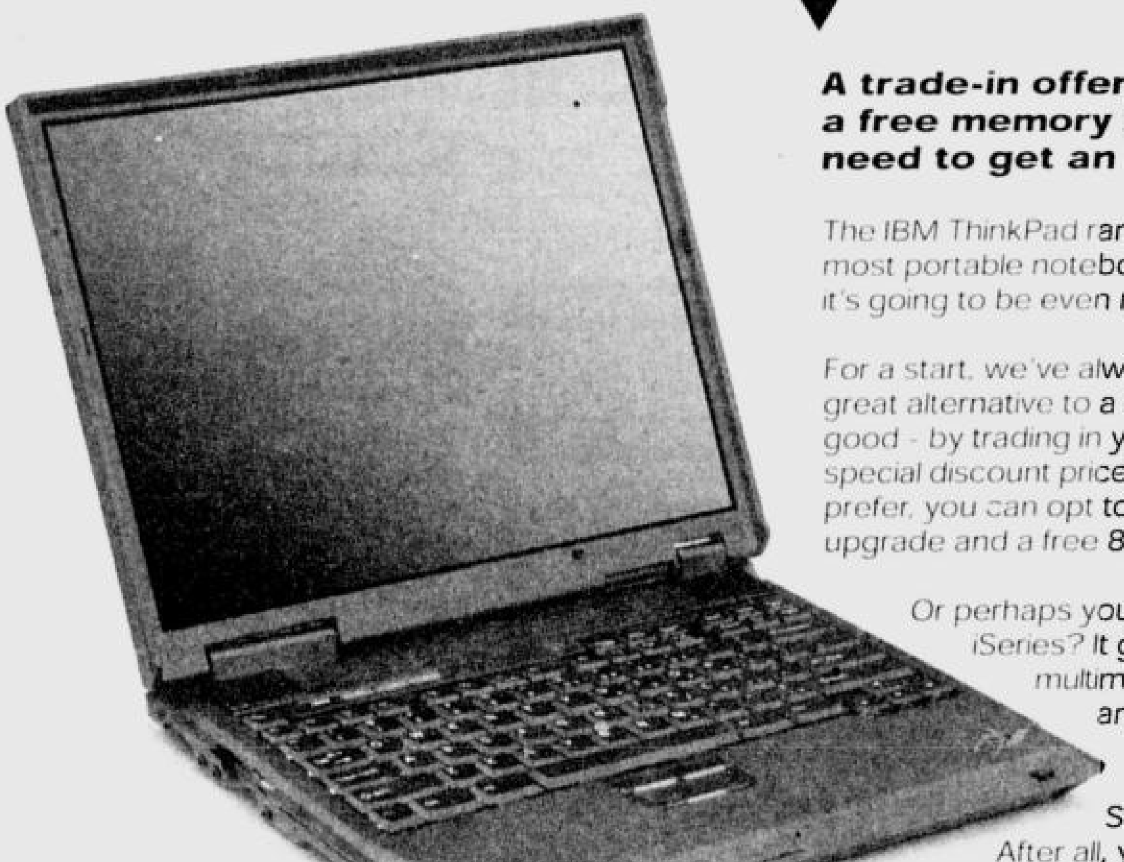

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

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This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.

Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

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THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

WTO meets to discuss drug patent agreement

GENEVA—The department of the World Trade Organization that covered intellectual property rights opened a five-day meeting Monday that was expected to include a debate on the controversial issue of access to drugs in developing countries.

Thirty-three African nations called for the special debate, scheduled for Wednesday, during a meeting in April of the committee on the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

The TRIPS agreement, which came into force in January 1995, protects drug patents for 20 years.

But one clause allows governments to issue licenses to competitors to produce or import products if necessary during health emergencies if pharmaceutical companies refuse to market their patented products.

The WTO has acknowledged that the clause is not sufficiently clear, noting that the criteria for government action is vague.

Developing countries have appealed for more flexibility in the clause.

Western countries, emphasizing the high cost of research and development of new drugs, have argued for a solution that safeguards the interests of the large pharmaceutical companies who hold the drug patents.

No decision is expected on Wednesday, but governments could agree to continue discussions.

A decision that clarifies the TRIPS agreement could be taken at a ministerial conference in Qatar in early November. *AFP*

EXPORT-LED GROWTH

Thailand doubts Asia model

TOKYO—Should Asia abandon the model of export-led growth that has lifted tens of millions of people out of poverty and turned countries like Korea and Taiwan into industrial powerhouses?

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra seems to think so—and some economists reckon he has a good case to make.

In recent speeches, Thaksin, who is fighting for his political life amid charges of concealing assets, called for an alternative development policy in which Asian countries would harness information technologies to nurture traditional skills and what he called sources of wisdom.

"We must reject paupering each other through cutthroat export price competition to supply others by selling the future of our poor for a pittance," Thaksin told an audience in Bangkok.

To his critics, Thaksin is flailing against global economic forces to cover up Thailand's own failure to move more quickly up the value chain and shore up growth, which has slowed to the slowest rate in two years.

Frances Perkins, executive director of the East Asia Analytical Unit at Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, said it was wrong to view the East Asia Economic Model as having been thrust upon the region by the West.

"Export-oriented growth is the Asian model. It was developed, promulgated and implemented most effectively by East Asia. I don't know of anyone who did it, at least not so successfully, before them," Perkins said.

"Tilting against globalization might be popular, but it's a false lead. It's not going to help developing countries overcome poverty and become wealthy. It's just an emotional response to emerging recognition of severe inequality," she added.

Richard Henderson, head of research at Kim Eng Securities in Bangkok, was also critical, saying Thaksin's speeches did not amount to a coherent alternative economic strategy.

"Thaksin is not merely exploiting a thread in Thai culture and public opinion, he is actually representative of it to some extent at least," Henderson said. "He genuinely feels some of these rather isolationist/xenophobic notions that he's putting forward. And if he doesn't, at least some of his advisers do."

But Daniel Lian, Southeast Asia economist for Morgan Stanley in Singapore, said Thaksin had raised an important point by stressing the need for homegrown entrepreneurs to expand intra-Asian trade instead of primarily supplying manufactured goods and natural resources to the rest of the world.

Such a strategy would enable Asia to channel its excess savings into domestic demand instead of into excessive exports that undercut the region's pricing power and subject it to worsening terms of trade whenever global demand turns down. *Reuters*

Japan ministers sidestep growth outlook revision

TOKYO—Japanese economic policymakers sidestepped Tuesday the question of making an inevitable revision of the government's growth forecast for the current year, saying more time was needed to come up with a credible figure.

The government's 1.7-percent growth estimate for the year, which began in April, became increasingly stale after a string of weak economic data recently and downgrades in the economic assessments by both the government itself and the Bank of Japan.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's economic staff admitted the forecast, formally approved by then-Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori's Cabinet in December, was difficult to meet but said they would not be drawn into hastily replacing the figure.

"In order to come up with a figure that we can be confident with, we need a thorough quantitative analysis," Takenaka told an Upper House committee meeting.

"As we have been saying, it will take several more months before an analysis could be completed on a macro-economic model, which the Council on Fiscal and Economic Policy is developing."

Data last week showed that Japan's gross domestic product contracted in the first three months of this year, and most economists expected the April-June quarter to be even weaker, thereby anticipating a relapse into recession. A Reuters poll of 25 economists published on Monday yielded a median forecast of zero GDP growth for the current fiscal year, with the average forecast for growth of 0.1 percent. *Reuters*

Oracle edges expectations, sees rebound

PALO ALTO, California—Oracle Corp., the world's second largest software vendor, on Monday announced fourth quarter results that beat lowered estimates and said its business might have bottomed out during the crucial period.

As its shares rallied in after-hours trade on the news, Oracle chief executive Larry Ellison said when the economy recovered, the company could see a return to the fast growth of the past.

"We think, we hope, that the worst is over. Hopefully, we hit the bottom in our fiscal Q4," said Jeff Henley, Oracle's chief financial officer, who forecast that software license revenue would be flat in the current quarter to Aug. 31.

Sales were weaker than expected at $3.26 billion in the past quarter, but Oracle cut costs sharply to hit its target of net earnings of 15 cents a share, slightly better than the Wall Street consensus of 14 cents a share.

Given all of the investor uncertainty that had surrounded the quarter, typically the most important for Oracle, the results were strong enough to spur an after-hours rally that pushed the stock to $16.10 from their closing price of $14.84.

Oracle forecast earnings per share of 8 cents in the first quarter, which would be flat from a year earlier, but Ellison hinted that was setting the bar low.

"Barring any further decline in the economy, we think our sales will pick up. We're cautiously optimistic that we might beat those numbers," Ellison told Reuters Television. Oracle's fourth quarter net income fell 8 percent from a year ago as the Redwood Shores, California-based company fell victim to a corporate spending slowdown. Sales dropped to $3.26 billion from $3.37 billion a year ago, short of analysts' consensus forecast for $3.4 billion. *Reuters*

NY Times plans job cuts

NEW YORK—The New York Times Co. will cut up to 9 percent of its workforce this year as it copes with declining advertising revenue, but it still expects to meet Wall Street's earnings expectations for both the coming quarter and year.

In a statement released Monday, the company, which announced in April it would start reducing its staff of 14,000 workers, said a drop in advertising revenue would cause its fiscal 2001 revenue to fall short of levels from last year.

"Since the beginning of the year, the newspaper industry, including our company, has seen a swift and steep decline in advertising revenues from the record level of last year," said Russell Lewis, president and chief executive.

Lewis said the company moved to counter the revenue decline by increasing circulation prices, cutting back on newsprint use and phasing out part of its Internet operations. It also planned to cut its workforce by about 8 to 9 percent—roughly 1,200 workers—though the company did not provide an exact figure.

Apart from its flagship newspaper, the New York Times Co. also owns 16 other newspapers, including the Boston Globe, eight television stations, and a pair of New York radio stations. *AP*

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WIDENING CRACKS

Taiwan's economy at crossroads for gov't

TAIPEI, Taiwan—When the Asian financial crisis swept through the region two years ago, Taiwan braced itself and then breathed a sigh of relief: The island had been spared the large-scale damage wrought elsewhere.

The Taiwanese were confident they had successfully progressed from being the world's leading supplier of umbrellas, Christmas lights and synthetic shoes to one of the top makers of computer chips and other high-tech products.

But slowing economic growth, a stock market plunge, an exodus of capital to neighboring China and sagging demand for computer parts has exposed widening cracks in Taiwan's economic and financial structure.

Taiwan's economy is now at a crossroads, similar to the one it faced 20 years ago before its shift from making cheap consumer goods to high-tech, analysts and business leaders say. And both the government and industry have to make drastic changes to stay competitive, they say.

The most recent numbers tell a scary story. The island has lowered its 2001 economic growth forecast to 4.02 percent, the lowest in 19 years. Exports were down 5.7 percent for the first four months this year, and the Taiwan dollar hit a 32-month low in May.

"Taiwan needs a clear and consistent economic policy," said Peter Banko, president of Bank of America in Taipei.

The island also must attract more foreign investment, according to Banko, but arcane regulations and monopolies in crucial sectors, such as energy and telecommunications, are discouraging investors.

Another serious problem is that Taiwan's creaky infrastructure is hobbling the expansion of the high-tech industry. Blackouts and water shortages are common in the Hsinchu Science-based Industrial Park, Taiwan's version of Silicon Valley.

"The government keeps saying don't worry about the power and water, but it's still a problem," said Matthew Miau, chair of Mitac-Syntex Group, a leading maker of laptops, PC and servers for companies such as Hewlett-Packard and Sun Microsystems Inc.

Many companies have given up on Taiwan and in the past decade have moved their factories to China, which promises cheap labor and land. Taiwanese have invested about $45 billion in China since the 1980s.

Those making cheap consumer goods were the first to go, but there is a sense of panic now because electronics companies are now making the jump. The government has tried to calm the public by saying Taiwan will replace the lost factory jobs with new ones created by a "knowledge-based" service economy.

High-tech companies also talk about how their administration and research-and-development departments will stay in Taiwan. But they also acknowledge that Taiwan has a shallow talent pool of engineers and scientists, and that luring talent to the island is difficult.

"When we try to attract scientists and engineers for a short period, we have no problem," said John Hsuan, chairman of United Microelectronics Corp., Taiwan's second biggest computer chip maker. "But if they want to bring a family over, they have difficulty in choosing this place."

Hsuan said United Microelectronics recently decided to build a plant in Singapore instead of Taiwan because the clean, orderly, cosmopolitan island nation was "easier on foreigners."

One other important thing Singapore has that Taiwan doesn't is a law that allows high-tech firms to import engineers and scientists from China.

Taiwan is suspicious of China because the two sides split amid civil war in 1949, and Beijing has repeatedly threatened to attack. Taiwan remains cautious about allowing mainlanders to come here or ending a five-decade ban on direct shipping and air links.

However, businesses are clamoring for greater access to China and the Taipei government is researching ways to expand ties. But many fear that the answers are coming too late. *AP*

COMPUTER chip technicians inspect silicon disks at a "clean room" testing facility at Taiwan's United Microelectronics Corp. in the Hsinchu Science Park, 100 kilometers southwest of Taipei. Many critics of Taiwan's lagging economy feel that the island must push forward in research and development in their leading industries of computer technology and shy away from low-end products such as umbrellas and calculators if they are to compete on the world market. AP

HK tycoon held for credit scam

HONG KONG—A flamboyant tycoon was among 18 people held over an alleged $1.8-billion credit scam, a spokeswoman for the Independent Commission Against Corruption said Tuesday.

The tycoon was identified in the local press as Keen Lloyd (Holdings) chair Chun Kam-chiu, 42.

He is known locally as the "king of luxury property" after buying more than 100 properties between 1996 and 1997 with a total value of more than $3 billion.

He was later dubbed the "king of backing down" after he launched a series of challenges against the legality of land titles and property deeds he bought when the 1997 Asian financial crisis reportedly left him with an estimated loss of $1.6 billion to $1.9 billion.

The manager of a China-backed bank, as well as the investment tycoon's wife—a former deputy general manager of the bank—were also among those arrested last week. *AFP*

Japan minister wants 10% ODA cut

TOKYO—The finance minister of Japan, the world's largest donor of financial aid to developing countries, said Tuesday he wanted to trim such spending by about 10 percent as a step toward balancing the country's debt-laden budget.

Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa said he met on Monday with Shizuka Kamei and Takami Eto, key members of the dominant Liberal Democratic Party, and discussed the possibility of trimming the amount of overseas development assistance.

"I said, 'I want to slash ODA by, say, 10 percent'," Shiokawa told a news conference. "Mr. Eto said, 'Go ahead. We'll cooperate'."

For the current fiscal year, which began in April, Japan has earmarked about 1.02 trillion yen ($8.3 billion) for official development assistance, down 31.4 billion yen, or about 3 percent, from the previous year.

Japan was the world's top ODA contributor for the 10th straight year in calendar 2000, although that amount lagged behind about 10 other countries' contributions as a percentage of gross national product.

Japan also has the highest budget deficit and the highest stock of public debt as a percentage of gross domestic product among industrialized nations, with current debt at around 130 percent as a percentage of GDP.

Shiokawa has said he will review ODA spending, along with other segments of the national budget, to fulfill Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's pledge to cut fiscal spending and conduct reforms without fears of "sacred cows."

As a first step to rein in Japan's snowballing debt, Koizumi has pledged to keep new government bond issuance to 30 trillion yen a year in the next few years.

Shiokawa said Monday he expected the government to achieve a primary balance—matching basic government revenue and spending so that no bond issuance is needed to repay or service existing debt—in the next four to six years.

A government council on economic and fiscal policy, led by Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka, is due to announce a report later this week that is expected to be a blueprint of the government's budget for fiscal 2002-03 starting next April. *Reuters*

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Future for telecom players seen difficult

SINGAPORE—Telecommunications, broadcasting and information technology firms received a wake-up call here Tuesday as an industry jamboree opened with a record turnout despite the global economic downturn.

Singapore's deputy prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong, said in a keynote speech opening CommunicAsia 2001 that while long-term prospects for the industry remained bright, particularly in Asia, the immediate future would be difficult.

"The US economy is going through a long-postponed cyclical downturn. The situation is particularly bad for the hi-tech and telecom sectors, which are undergoing a major correction," he said.

"Falling economic growth rates have brought home the realization that many of the earlier projections of revenues were unrealistic," added Lee, also chair of the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

A record of 2,400 exhibitors from 54 countries is taking part in CommunicAsia 2001, which also includes the broadcasting and satellite industries.

The latest consumer gadgets as well as network and industrial equipment are on display in the massive Singapore Expo complex.

Lee said many telecommunications and network equipment companies were reeling from "the burden of over-ambitious expansions," citing Nortel Networks' announcement of a loss of $19 billion in the second quarter.

"There will be no V-shape recovery for the info-comm industry, though everyone hopes things will pick up in the industry by next year," he said.

He said Asian economies were being hit by slack demand for electronics and telecom exports. More than half of Singapore's exports are electronics-related, resulting in problems for workers in the sector.

"Notwithstanding these present problems globally and in Asia, from a longer-term point of view, prospects for the info-comm industry are promising," he said. *AFP*

Debt group uses shock ads in new campaign

LONDON—International debt relief campaign group Drop the Debt on Tuesday launched a shock advertising campaign depicting a healthy Western baby trying to breast feed from a malnourished African woman.

The group said it was using shock tactics to try and raise public awareness of the need to write off the debts of the world's poorest countries at a summit of the Group of Eight leading industrial countries next month.

The advertisement—which asked "Haven't we taken enough?"—would be rolled out globally, but the first posters were put up in London late on Monday and Drop the Debt said it had already received a complaint from the Advertising Standards Authority.

Rock star Bob Geldof, a key Drop the Debt supporter, was unrepentant. "We make no apologies for this photo. There is nothing in it which is not true and this is a single crippling issue that imbalances the world morally as well as financially.

"We are hoping that, leading up to the G8 summit, we can get this debt relief issue readdressed prominently. We must not let it fall off the agenda," he told Reuters.

Geldof said it was incredible that while the Group of Seven (G8 minus Russia) had already moved to scrap all the debts owed to them by the world's poorest countries, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, which were owed as much as the G7 countries, had not moved nearly as far.

"They claim it would bankrupt them, but we have audited figures showing that that is not true. The G7 are the shareholders of the IMF and World Bank and must make them follow suit," said Geldof.

Drop the Debt calculates that African countries spend around $13.5 billion a year repaying debts to rich countries, more than double what they spend on healthcare and as much as they need to effectively combat the AIDS pandemic sweeping the continent.

The G7, IMF and World Bank launched the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative in 1996 with the aim of canceling the debts of the world's 41 poorest countries.

Progress has been slow, however, with only 23 having reached the point where they have seen their debt service payments fall, and then by an average of only a quarter.

Geldof said a new global campaign to combat AIDS wrongly gave the impression that the debt relief issue had been dealt with.

"People must realize that even if Africans get the AIDS drugs they need, they can't afford the syringes or doctors they need to administer them without the money from debt relief."

Drop the Debt is a temporary successor organization to Jubilee 2000, a global coalition that succeeded in pushing debt relief up the international agenda but which had always promised to disband at the end of 2000. It has attracted widespread support from people such as the Pope and rock star Bono.

Drop the Debt will itself disband after the G8 summit next month, which is scheduled to be held in the Italian port city of Genoa but whose location is now in doubt after the weekend riots at a European Union summit in Gothenberg, Sweden.

Geldof will present a copy of the Drop the Debt advertisement to the British Treasury later on Tuesday, but he praised the British government, saying it had been one of the main promoters of faster and deeper debt relief. *Reuters*

SLOWLY THIS TIME

Fed officials lay groundwork for more cuts

BOSTON—Federal Reserve officials on Monday laid the groundwork for further interest rate reductions, but signaled the central bank may slow its aggressive pace of cutting so far this year.

Boston Fed president Cathy Minehan said she was not certain the economy would rebound in the second half of this year and also did not know whether the Fed had lowered rates enough yet to ensure such a recovery.

Richmond Fed president Alfred Broaddus said he was not sure the worst of a nearly year-old slowdown was behind yet and more rate cuts may be needed. But he added the Fed did not have much room to further boost the economy with rate cuts because it had already lowered rates substantially this year.

Both Minehan and Broaddus are heads of regional Fed banks who participate in Washington meetings of the Fed's policy-making arm, the Federal Open Market Committee. Minehan is a voting FOMC member this year, but Broaddus is not.

The FOMC next meets on June 26 to 27, when Wall Street widely anticipates another interest rate cut to resuscitate the moribund economy.

"The consensus forecast continues to see a pick-up in the latter part of the year and I think there is a good chance this is what will happen," Minehan told the Boston Municipal Research Bureau.

"But this is by no means a certain outcome and the preponderance of current economic data suggests that in the short run, downside risks are real."

US growth has slowed to a snail's pace over the past year after booming in the late 1990s. The Fed has responded by cutting the benchmark overnight bank lending or Federal funds rate by a total of 2.5 percentage points so far this year.

A Reuters poll of leading bond dealers on Friday found that 19 of 25 expect a quarter-point cut in the 4 percent funds rate next week while six expect a half-point cut.

There was little reaction in US stock and bond markets on Monday to the latest Fed speakers.

Broaddus, in a speech to the Virginia Bankers Association in Hot Springs, Virginia, said the Fed did not yet know if the economy was bottoming out.

"And if it continues to show signs of weakness, we may in fact need additional stimulus," he said.

"Still, it is worth noting that the degree of monetary stimulus currently in place is already quite substantial by recent historical standards, and we don't have a lot of leeway to reduce it further before we get to a level that can cause us difficulties." Broaddus gave a similar speech two weeks ago.

Minehan said the economy did not appear to be in a recession—typically defined as two consecutive quarters of contraction—but to those hardest hit, such as manufacturers, it feels like one.

"These are questions to which I don't have answers, but they also shape my heightened sense of uncertainty," Minehan said. "How does the central bank know how much is enough? Is the monetary stimulus already in the pipeline sufficient, or is more needed to ensure recovery? Are these rates low enough, given demand conditions?"

Both Fed presidents discussed the risks to the economic outlook.

Minehan said there had been a "distinct pause" in business spending on capital equipment in the current quarter after such outlays grew at double-digit rates in the second half of the last decade.

This could translate into a drop in productivity in the short run, although longer term, she said she saw solid productivity growth.

Broaddus said it was unlikely the economy would reaccelerate in the near future, adding there were still "considerable downside risks."

Weakness in the manufacturing sector, which had been hardest hit by the slowdown, might spread to other areas of the economy, he warned.

"I think near-term prospects for the economy will depend to a considerable degree on how quickly the factory sector can work through these imbalances," Broaddus said.

For much of last year, businesses scurried to keep up with booming demand only to get caught with shelves of unsold goods when the economy slowed sharply late in the year.

Minehan said resilient US consumer spending had been the economy's "ace-in-the-hole" so far. But continued spending by consumers will be key to keeping the economy growing.

The administration's tax cuts should underpin consumer spending, boosting outlays beginning in the third quarter of this year, Minehan said. She expected the tax cuts and related spending to increase gross domestic product growth by 0.50 to 0.75 percentage point both this year and next.

Both Minehan and Broaddus said inflation was not much of a concern now but could become one further down the road after all of the stimulus from Fed rate cuts and the administration's tax cuts has worked its way through the economy.

The Fed typically raises interest rates to stave off inflation. *Reuters*

Microsoft, AOL inch closer to corporate war

SAN FRANCISCO—Technology and media titans Microsoft and AOL Time Warner on Monday inched closer towards open corporate warfare after the collapse of talks over cooperation on key future technologies.

The pending feud could determine the broad terrain of consumer technology for the next decade, analysts opine.

Executives from the two companies negotiated furiously last week as to how AOL's industry-leading online service software would work with Microsoft's Windows XP operating system, due out next month.

Microsoft commands the software technology sector, powering 90 percent of the world's computers with its Windows operating system that enables computers and hand-held or wireless devices to play music, videos and games.

AOL Time Warner dominates the content played on these machines, especially with its AOL online service, the No. 1 provider of consumer Internet service with some 30 million home computer users.

What to include in the AOL package bundled with Windows XP is the sticking point, sources from both companies told AFP on condition of anonymity, as Microsoft wants veto power over the inclusion of titles from rival software makers in the AOL service package and AOL wants to add technologies as it sees fit.

Negotiations broke down over AOL's insistence that RealPlayer software serves as the default music and video player.

Grudgingly, Microsoft accepted, with the caveat that any songs and video compatible with RealPlayer should work with Windows Media Player. AOL refused.

"The talks broke down not over issues between Microsoft and AOL but over Microsoft's determination to control digital music on the Internet," insisted AOL spokeswoman Kathy McKearnan.

Microsoft spokesman Jim Cullinan said the discussions ended because there was "not enough business value for Microsoft to go ahead and do a deal," though he avowed AOL's software would "run great" on the upcoming XP operating system, despite earlier reports to the contrary.

"They are on an inevitable collision course," said Mark Mooradian, an analyst with Jupiter Media Metrix in New York. "They both have the same goals of trying to be number one in the consumer media experience. And there's only room for one number one." *AFP*

Intel seeks relaxed rules on broadband

WASHINGTON—Intel Corp. chair Andrew Grove called on the US government Monday night to relax regulations on high-speed Internet access, saying wider deployment was necessary even if it would cause more independent carriers to go out of business.

But Grove stopped short of endorsing a controversial bill making its way through Congress that sought the same result, saying he had "nothing to add" to the debate that pitched established local-phone providers like Verizon Communications and SBC Communications Inc. against independent companies and long-distance giants like AT&T Corp.

Speaking at a dinner event sponsored by the Progressive Policy Institute, a centrist Democratic think tank, Grove argued that a 1996 law that sought to encourage competition in local telecommunications markets had failed to bring widespread high-speed, or "broadband" access.

Rather than seeking to encourage smaller players to compete, the government should relax restrictions and allow the incumbent "Baby Bells" to dominate the market, he said.

Armed with an array of slides depicting the slowdown of the digital economy, Grove said Internet traffic continued to grow even as tech firms faced financial difficulties. In order for the industry to complete its infrastructure build-out, the companies in a position to do so—large, stable, incumbent phone companies—must have the incentive of large profits, he said.

"It is time for a new approach in which telecom incumbents that have emerged strongest in this battle should be allowed to invest with the fair expectation of making a lot of money," Grove said.

Independent telecom companies like Covad Communications Corp. and PSInet have struggled, with PSInet having declared bankruptcy, as financing has evaporated in the capital markets this year.

Grove also called for the loosening of export controls on high-performance computers and a continued policy of free trade, positions frequently echoed by other high-tech business interests.

The 1996 Telecommunications Act requires Baby Bells to open their networks to rivals before they can jump into markets like long-distance voice and data services. A bill sponsored by Representatives Billy Tauzin of Louisiana and John Dingell of Michigan seeks to remove that restriction, generating heated debate among telecom firms that will stand to benefit or lose if the bill were enacted into law. *Reuters*

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Asia's first Microtel hotel is Microtel Filipiniana Calapan, in a commercial complex that the RGV Group of Companies led by pioneer real estate developer Rodolfo G. Valencia is developing in the capital city of Oriental Mindoro.

American hotel chain fastest growing in RP

The United States-based Microtel Inn and Suites, the fastest-growing network of world-class economy hotels in the world, has quickly become the most rapidly growing hotel chain in the Philippines as well.

Known internationally for catering to value-conscious business and leisure travelers, Microtel began development work for its first Philippine hotel in December 1999. So far, it has inaugurated four hotels, and is scheduled to begin constructing three others by the fourth quarter of this year. It is expected to announce more new projects shortly.

The first Microtel hotels to operate in the Philippines are in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro; the Luisita Estate in Tarlac; the First Philippine Industrial Park in Sto. Tomas, Batangas; and the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in General Trias, Cavite.

Moreover, agreements have been signed for three Microtel hotels – in the Canlubang Sugar Estate in Cabuyao Laguna, in the Sta. Rosa Business Park in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and in a prime location in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. These are scheduled to open in the third quarter of next year.

Worldwide, Microtel has 232 hotels operating in the United States and more than 400 being developed in various countries. The Philippine network is the first in Asia and shows one of the highest growth rates within the international chain.

Microtel is one of the American-based hotel brands owned by US Franchise Systems, Inc., of Atlanta, Georgia, which in turn has been acquired by the Pritzker family that owns the Hyatt hotel group.

Charles Pereira, Director for International Development of US Franchise Systems, on a recent visit to the ongoing Microtel hotel projects in the Philippines, said he was very impressed with the pace, locations, and sets of franchise holders for Microtel hotels in the Philippines.

"The quality and rate of our development in the Philippines are nothing short of remarkable!" he told officials of Microtel Inns & Suites (Pilipinas), or MIS-P, the Philippine master franchise holder of the United States-based chain, led by President and Chief Executive Officer Jose Mari del Rosario.

REAL VALUE FOR MONEY

Microtel is recognized internationally for providing most of the services of first-class hotels at rates comparable to those of provincial, independent hotels. "We are proud to offer truly world-class hotels with real value for money," said Del Rosario, who is likewise President and CEO of Paramount Property Management Company, which manages all Microtel hotels in the country.

"Our market is primarily local businessmen who travel to the economic zones like Calabarzon and the trade centers in Central and Northern Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao," Del Rosario pointed out.

"In addition," he said, "there are the family and leisure travelers who usually go on weekends, which is when business travel eases down."

Microtel hotels are safe and secure, the rooms clean and comfortable. They provide for such modern needs as IDD-capable telephones, a compatible port for fax and modem, and cable TV with international channels. They also give ample space for business travelers to work comfortably, and a professional setting for small meetings.

Every room has a built-in desk and chair. Basic room amenities include a key-card lock system, a bed that meets chiropractic standards, fire sprinklers, and complete toilet and bath.

Suite amenities include a wet bar, a refrigerator, a coffeemaker and a microwave oven. For family and leisure travelers, the living room of the suite has a sofa sleeper so that it can serve as a second bedroom.

Microtel hotels are distinguished by their design and furnishings, which are consistent chain-wide and give them a clean, residential look.

LOCATION CONVENIENCE

Their locations enable Microtel hotels to give business travelers their primary requirements: efficiency and convenience.

Microtel Luisita, for example, lies within the Luisita Estate, beside the Aquino Center where the Benigno S. Aquino Foundation spearheaded by former President Corazon C. Aquino has built a state-of-the-art museum, library and conference center to be the home of the Institute for People Power Deve-lopment.

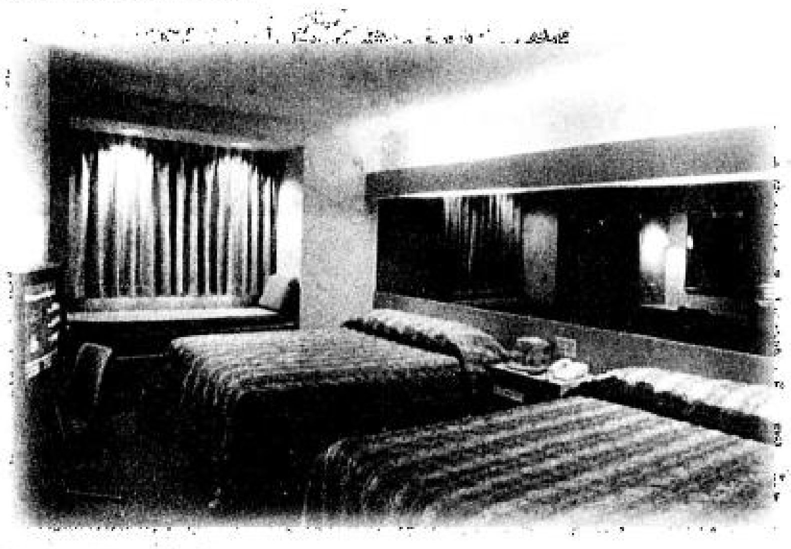
With 24 single-rooms, 12 double-rooms and 14 suites, the Microtel hotel caters to conference and seminar participants in the Aquino Center, visitors and locators in the Luisita Industrial Park, and domestic travelers doing business in the Central Luzon area. It is also ideal for golfers at the Luisita Golf and Country Club.

Microtel Sto. Tomas, with 40 single and double-rooms and 18 suites, is at the entrance of the First

Typical Lobby

Typical Suite

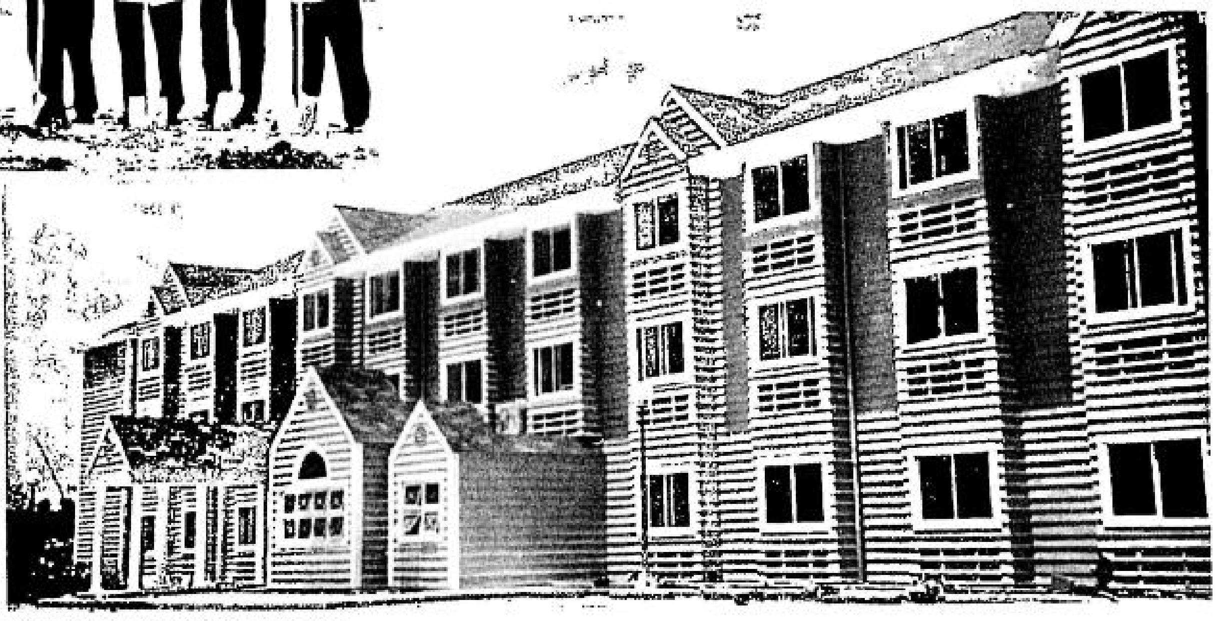
Typical Single Room



Typical Double Room

Microtel Inns & Suites

Microtel Inns & Suites (Pilipinas), Inc., or MIS-P, broke ground for Microtel Eagle Ridge (shown as completed right) in General Trias, Cavite, in October 2000. At the ceremony (shown above, from left) were Eulalio Ganzon of general contractor E. Ganzon, Inc., Bienvenido Tan III of Aviso Holdings Corporation, Vicente Santos of Sta. Lucia Realty and Development, Inc., Jolly Ting of Jolliville Leisure and Resort Corporation. Jose Mari del Rosario of MIS-P, Tomas Alcantara of Alsons Land Corporation, Exequiel Robles of Sta. Lucia Realty, and Cavite Vice Governor Jon-Vic Remulla.



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hectare industrial complex developed by First Philippine Holdings Corporation of the Lopez Group. It will cater to visitors and locators in this and nearby other special economic zones, and to travelers doing business in Batangas.

The Microtel Filipiniana Calapan, with 20 suites and 30 double-rooms, is the pioneer structure in the Filipiniana Calapan commercial complex in the capital city of Oriental Mindoro. This is the latest project of the RGV Group of Companies headed by pioneer real estate developer Rodolfo G. Valencia.

Microtel Eagle Ridge, with 38 single and double-rooms and 18 suites, is within the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in General Trias, a golf and residential community developed by Alsons Land and Sta. Lucia Realty. It will cater to visitors and locators in the nearby Gateway Business Park, First Cavite Industrial Park, and several other development centers in Cavite. It also is ideal for avid golfers in the country club, which boasts of four golf courses, for a total of 72 holes designed by world-renowned Andy Dye, Isao Aoki, Greg Norman and Nick Faldo.

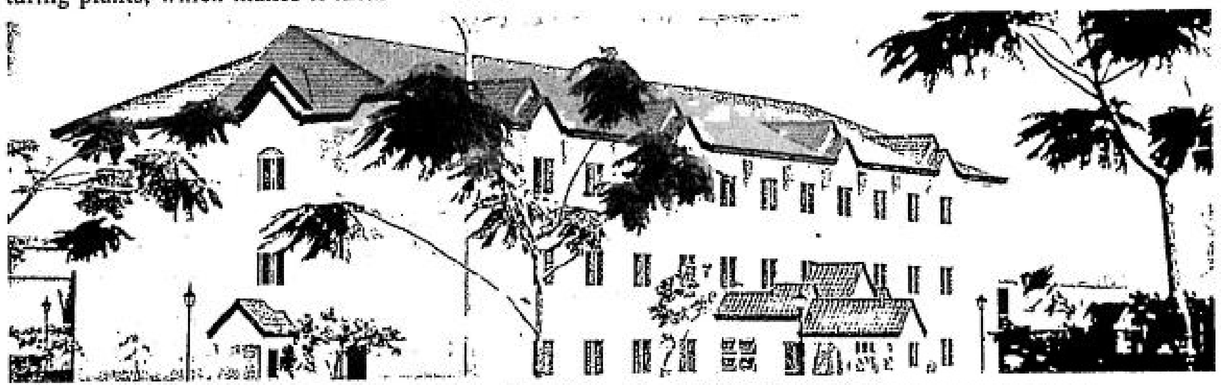
The 60-room Microtel Sta. Rosa will rise within Greenfield Development Corporation's Sta. Rosa Business Park alpng the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Highway, near the Ford, Matsushita Electric, Toyota, Nissan and other major manufacturing plants, which makes it ideal for visitors to Laguna's industrial center and nearby destinations such as the Enchanted Kingdom theme park.

Microtel Canlubang, also with a total of 60 rooms, will be located within the Canlubang Sugar Estate in Cabuyao, Laguna, near the Carmelray Industrial Park and Canlubang Golf Club.

Microtel Cabanatuan, likewise with 60 rooms, will be adjacent to the new City Hall within Kapitan Pepe Subdivision of Manuel de Leon, Inc. Strategically located, Nueva Ecija is the main commercial hub of Northeastern Luzon.

Former President Corazon C.Aquino and Antonio Cojuangco (extreme right) inaugurated Microtel Luisita (shown at left) in the Luisita Estate in Tarlac, together with Jose Mari del Rosario (extreme left), President/ CEO of Microtel Inns and Suites (Pilipinas), Inc., or MISP, and Nilo Vergara (third from left), Executive Vice President/COO of MIS-P.

The Campos Group's Greenfield Development Corporation (GDC) and Microtel Inns & Suites (Pilipinas) sign the agreement to develop Microtel Sta. Rosa. Shown are (from left) Carlos Ejercito, President of GDC; Butch Campos, Senior Vice President and Senior Executive Officer of GDC; Ramon R. del Rosario, Jr., Chairman of Microtel Inns & Suites (Pilipinas), Inc. or MIS-P; Jose Mari del Rosario, President/CEO of MIS-P and Paramount Property Management Company, which manages all Microtel hotels in the Philippines; and Charles Pereira, Director for International Development of US Franchise Systems of Atlanta, Georgia, which owns the Microtel, Best Inns and Hawthorn brands.



The newly opened Microtel Sto. Tomas in the First Philippine Industrial Park in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

LOW-COST DEVELOPMENT

Microtel has the lowest development cost in the economy segment of the international hotel industry, which it has achieved without sacrificing product quality.

"Microtel serves the needs of both the economy traveler and the hotel owner," Del Rosario emphasized. "With the owner, we take into consideration the need for reasonable development cost, low-cost operations, and a high rate of return on investment."

Microtel's efficient room design and relatively small land area translate to a smaller capital requirement for initial investment and maintenance, Del Rosario noted.

Microtel has been ranked as the top economy hotel brand in the United States in terms of "overall price/value relation" and "physical appearance" in the Top US Hotel Chain Survey of Business Travel News magazine. It has also received the top "Business Travel Award" for an economy hotel, which the US-based Entrepreneur magazine gives for products that make the business travel experience easier and less costly.

Del Rosario, heading the team of professionals at MIS-P and Paramount Property Management Company, has more than 15 years of experience in hotel management. An alumnus of Cornell University's General Managers Program, his hotel career started with Hotel Lausanne Palace in Switzerland, followed by the Manila Peninsula Hotel, and later Imperial Hotel in Tokyo. Before taking his MBA in Cambridge, Massachusetts, he was the general manager and chief operating officer of The Manila Hotel for three years.

MIS-P Executive Vice President and COO, Nilo M. Vergara, has over 15 years of experience as manager of such establishments as Manila Peninsula Hotel, Century Park Sheraton, Manila Polo Club, and El Nido Resort in Palawan, and as head of business development at Bistro Holdings, the Philippine franchise holder for TGI Fridays, Italiani's and Outback restaurants.

The Yulo Group's Altoclaro Resources and Microtel Inns & Suites (Pilipinas), Inc., or MIS-P, sign the agreement to develop Microtel Canlubang in Cabuyao, Laguna. Shown are (seated, from left) Jose Luis Gerardo A. Yulo, Director and Treasurer of Altoclaro Resources; Jose A. Yulo, Jr., Chairman of Altoclaro Resources; Jose Mari del Rosario, President/CEO of MIS-P and Paramount Property Management Company; and Nilo Vergara, Executive Vice President/COO of MIS-P and Paramount Property Management. Standing are (from left) Architect Luis Nakpil of MIS-P; Dennis Mercado, Consultant to Altoclaro Resources; Dennis Marcelino, Chief Finance Officer of MIS-P and Paramount Property Management; and Atty. Annie Aguilar, of the Tan, Acut, Lopez Law Office.

Chief Financial Officer Dennis Marcelino has over 13 years of finance and controllership functions in such hotel properties as Mandarin Oriental Manila, Westin Philippine Plaza, El Nido Resorts, and Bistro Holdings. Sales and Marketing Director Leny Roco-Fabul likewise is an outstanding hotel marketing professional, having held similar positions in various five-star hotel properties in Metro Manila.

The MIS-P/Paramount team of hospitality industry professionals is by far the best all-Filipino group of hoteliers assembled in the country. By combining their collective years of training, Microtel's technical standards, their drive – and the famous Filipino hospitality – they make the Microtel product a winner!

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Golf tourney at Tagaytay

THE ALUMNI of Xavier School will again meet at the Tagaytay Midlands Golf and Country Club for the 9th Xavier Alumni Golf Cup on Friday, June 22. This year's tournament is sponsored by the Class of '76, in cooperation with the Alumni Association of Xavier School, and promises bigger and better prizes.

A 1.6 GSI Ford Lynx courtesy of Ford Balintawak, a Kohler whirlpool, and a Star Cruise for two on Superstar Aries are lined up as a hole-in-one prizes. Standard appliances, an Alpine car stereo, a set of his and hers Lucent watches, several Casio and Timex watches, and Dunlop/Slazenger products are among the many raffle prizes to be given away.

The Xavier Class '76 would like to thank Altec Lansing, Intel distributor Redwood Ventures, Alpine Studio Systems, Alps Water, Boysen Paint, Dyna Music, Dickles Jeans, Eaton Holiday Inn, Emicor, Fabrotec, Galileo Enterprises, HealthLab, Hong Kong Hardware, Josol Home Décor, J.R. Dancer Vodka, La Elegancia, Legacy Frames, Lucent Timepieces, Mitsubishi Elevator, Philips Foods, Quinta Trading, Royal Truck, Security Paper Sales, Silver Bell Milk, SM, Spring Cooking Oil, Uranza and Associates Attorneys at Law, VPA Holdings, and many others who have extended their support to this tournament.

All alumni are invited to this annual event of golf, fun and prizes. For registration call Imee/Sally at the Xavier School Alumni Office through 726-4855 and 727-3329.

Hyundai Motors appoints distributor

HYUNDAI Motor Corp. has appointed Southwest Commercial Vehicles Corp. as its exclusive distributor in the Philippines for its full lineup of buses and trucks. In a simple ceremony recently at the Southwest office in Manila, J.H. Kang, general manager of Commercial Vehicles Exports has confirmed the company's commitment to expand its overseas thrust and has identified the Philippines as one of the countries expected to register positive economic growth. The company intends to bring in quality commercial vehicles to the country.

The Hyundai Commercial Vehicles team has spent months modifying and adapting its vehicular specifications to Philippine market requirements. Aside from tropicalizing the vehicles' power train, changes in riding comfort, safety and operating efficiencies have been incorporated into the models that will be available in the country. All buses will be completely built and assembled in Chon-Ju, South Korea plants. The Aero Space LD, the Aero-City and the Aero-Country buses have been specifically modified for the Philippine market with the comfort of the Filipino riding public in mind.

Hyundai Motor, one of the largest motor vehicle companies in the world, has projected improved sales forecast for the first five months of this year. Its operating profit is estimated to surpass 2 trillion won ($1.5 billion) according to LG Securities. Daimler-Chrysler, which has a 10.41-percent stake in Hyundai Motor, is finalizing talks to complete a joint venture in commercial vehicle production since their strategic alliance was formed in June last year. Hyundai Motor is the domestic market leader in Korea with about 50-percent share of the vehicles market. Southwest Commercial Vehicles Corporation is a subsidiary of the Southwest Maritime Group of Companies in the logistics and distribution services for the oil industry. The introduction of Hyundai vehicles sales complements the company's main thrust in its distribution business.

Cross ballpen's June treat

A.T. Cross, the world's finest writing instrument known for it's understated elegance and timeless value, will give a treat this June.

Starting June 1, all fountain pens and pencils bought will enjoy a 30-percent discount. As an added treat, a mousepad calculator will be given away for every single purchase of fountain pen and pencil.

Cross also has a new two-in-one pen available this year for its Palm Pilot kind of buyers. One end of the Cross Morph Digital Writer Duo is a regular pen with an adjustable ergonomic grip for writing comfort, while the top end is a polymeric stylus tip for use on a Palm Pilot or any other PPA or HPC screen. It comes in radiant colors, including electric silver.

All cross ballpens are available in selected Shoemart outlets and leading National Bookstores nationwide. Promo ends June 30.

Orbitz, Rico Yan set new craze

ORBITZ pearl shake joins young actor Rico Yan in setting a new craze in town – the "Blast into Orbitz" yoyo promo. All Orbitz pearl shake lovers are entitled to get a special edition yoyo for free. It comes in five cool and hip shades of green, violet, fuschia, clear white and orange. So pick the color of your choice and do the Orbitz launch yoyo trick. To get this newest and exciting gadget, purchase three cups of 12 oz. Orbitz pearl shake flavors of buko pandan, melon, strawberry, ube, chocolate and vanilla. For every purchase of two 12 oz. cups and P10, or for a single purchase of 12 oz. cup plus P30, you can enjoy this limited offer. This promo is good until June 20. Hurry. Visit the nearest Orbitz and be a part of this newest craze in town. For more information log on to www.orbitz.com.ph, or call 727-8919 or see posters and print ads for details.

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In Loving Memory
of

Rosita Conlu Supetran

who peacefully joined her Creator on June 17, 2001
at the age of 86.

Her bereaved husband **Isabelo**; children **Virgilio** and **Ninfa**, **Ernesto** and **Dolores**, **Erlinda** and **Silvestre**, **Nena** (†) and **Daniel**, **Alfonso** and **Lourdes**, **Gloria** and **Orlando** (†); grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Jagnaya, Jamindan Capiz.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 24, 2001 at the family mausoleum, Jagnaya Catholic Cemetery after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at San Vicente Ferrer Parish Church Jagnaya, Jamindan Capiz.

"We will all miss her and the memories of her presence and guidance will remain forever in our hearts."

CATALINA NARCISO TOLENTINO

(Apung Lilay)
of Guagua, Pampanga and Gagalangin, Tondo

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 18, 2001 at the age of 86.

Her bereaved children **BABY** and **Paniong Paras**, **MEL** and **Nestor de Leon**, **TELLY**, **PERLITA** and **Boy**, and **TERRY**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, sisters, nephews, nieces and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

She lies in state at the Premiere Suite I, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Her remains will be brought to the San Nicolas Chapel, Guagua, Pampanga at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 23, 2001.
Interment follows immediately after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

CESARIO A. RIVERA, JR.

of Bolbok, Batangas City

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 17, 2001
at the age of 59.

His remains lie in state at the Mary Help Christian Chapel, Betterliving Subd., Parañaque City and will be transferred to Basilica Immaculada Concepcion, Batangas City on June 21, 2001 after 9:00 a.m. Mass.

His relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his osul.

Interment will be at 1:00 p.m., June 24, 2001 after the Holy Mass at the Basilica Immaculada Concepcion Church.

Message of Thanks
We, the family of the late

DR. PEDRO M. MORALES

who joined his Creator on May 14, 2001

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to you all who offered Holy Mass and prayers, sent condolences, flowers and donations, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

May the Lord shower us all with abundant blessings.

"I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
Isaiah 49:6

The Missionary Society of Saint Columban
mourns the death of

FR. JAMES FLYNN

who died in Manila Doctors Hospital on June 18, 2001
at the age of 76.

Fr. Flynn was ordained in 1948 and arrived in the Philippines in 1950. He was assistant Parish Priest in Tangub, Misamis Occidental and Pastor of the following Parishes Lanipao-Lala, Karomatan, Malabang, Tubod, Sinacaban, Kawalan, and Lagundingan.

Fr. Jim now lies at rest at St. Columban's, 1857 Singalong Street, Manila. His remains will be flown to Cagayan de Oro City in the morning of the 20th. His funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday morning the 22nd in Holy Cross Parish, Laguindingan at 9:00 A.M. Burial will take place immediately after the Mass in the Divine Shepherd Cemetery, Cagayan de Oro City.

May he rest in peace.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Cor. 5:8

The **Rural Bank of Angono, Inc.**
announces with deep sorrow the demise of
its beloved Chairman

Arch. LEOPOLDO S. ISIDRO

Peacefully joined his Creator on
Sunday, June 17, 2001 at the age of 91.

His remains lie in state at Sta. Elena Chapel, Marikina City.

Interment today, June 20, 2001, 2:30 p.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Our Dearly Beloved Papa

COL. MARCELO GAVIOLA LAPASARAN (MAC) PAF (Ret.)

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 17, 2001

His late wife **Cirila Dagandan (†)**; loving children and in-laws **Teofisto** and **Milagros**, **Poly** and **Minie**, **Lisa** and **Alfred Mayer**, **Aida** and **Robert Guse**, **Rolando (†)**, **Ana Fe** and **Joaquin Schwind**, **Boyet** and **Rizza**; grandchildren **Mitos**, **Bryan**, **Ethel**, **Andrei**, **Alexis**, **Andrew**, **Michelle**, **Alfred, Jr.**, **Carol**, **Marvin**, **Melvin** and **Markvince**; great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.
His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels,
Dr. A. Santos Avenue, (Sucat), Parañaque City.
Interment will be on Saturday, June 22, 2001
at the *Libingan ng mga Bayani*, Fort Bonifacio, Makati
after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Camp Crame Chapel, Quezon City.

"You are now safe in the loving arms of the
Lord rest in His care. See you at the resurrection!"

RENATO GOSICO·YALUNG

Vice Chairman - Yalung Group of Companies

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 18, 2001 at the age of 62.

His loving wife **Marina T. Yalung** and children **Dan** and **Beth**, **Guina** and **Paolo**, his brothers and sisters, **Roman**, **Horacio** and **Benjamin**, **Leonita** and **Honorata**, nephews, nieces and relatives, his sisters and brother-in-law, his friends and those whose lives have been touched by our beloved *M4* are requested to share their love, sympathies and prayers with the family.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City. Interment will be on Friday, June 22, 2001 at 9:30 AM at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

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4. At least P120,000.00 operating cash and one full-time staff paid by the center.
5. Service-oriented and gets along with people.

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ALL CONSUMERS WHO ARE INTERESTED TO EARN ADDITIONAL MONTHLY INCOME, & LOCAL SUPPLIERS MAY CONTACT THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS CENTERS:

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Western Visayas / Panay Island
Mr. William (Bogs) Ferolino
RISE PHILS. MULTIRICH CORPORATION
2nd Flr. AMIGO PLAZA, Iznart St., 5000 Iloilo City
Telefax: (033) 337-9252 Text: 0917-5141369

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Securities and Exchange Commission
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, 1554
Metro Manila

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

SEC invites Canteen Concessionaires to pre-qualify and bid to operate a CANTEEN/ LOUGE at the SEC Bldg.

Bidders can secure the pre-qualification documents at the General Services Division, HRAD, 4th floor SEC Bldg. starting June 18, 2001.

Deadline for submission of Pre-qualification documents is on June 25, 2001 and the opening of Bids will be on June 29, 2001, at the Office of Canteen PBAC Chairperson, 8th floor SEC Building. For further information please call Assistant Director ROMEO O. DAUAG at Telephone Nos. 725-4608 and 727-3320.

SEC reserves the right to accept reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any formalities therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the Government.

All communications should be addressed to the PBAC Chairperson.

PBAC

(PDI--June 20, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PROCUREMENT & LOGISTICS SERVICE
Bldg #26 San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel.No. (632) 743-83-01 loc. 3626 & 3627

June 15, 2001

INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB NO. 2001-7-31 [3]

The Department of Health hereby invites sealed written bids for the Procurement of Various Pharmaceuticals for the use of the different Services and Programs chargeable against their funds.

Only responsible and duly accredited suppliers/manufacturers and/ or exclusive distributors of the products as certified by the Department of Health Accreditation Supplier's Committee/BFAD are qualified to participate for the :

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS PHARMACEUTICALS

Copy of the list of Drugs and Medicines with specifications and quantities are available at the Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg. No. 26, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Bidding documents can be secured upon payment of non-refundable fee of two thousand (P2,000.00) Pesos only and upon presentation of the following:

1. Authenticated DOH Supplier's Accreditation Certificate with the list of accredited products.
2. Authenticated Certificate of Product Registration
3. Authenticated License to Operate

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Issuance of Bid Documents	: June 23 to July 27, 2001	8:00 to 5:00
Pre-Bid Conference	: July 10, 2001	10:00 a.m.
Deadline for Submission of Bids	: July 31, 2001	10:00 a.m.
Opening of Bids	: July 31, 2001	10:00 a.m.

All activities shall be held at the San Lazaro Hospital Amphitheater, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila unless announced otherwise.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than two and a half-percent (2.5%) of the total amount of bid in the form of the following: (a) Manager's Check (b) Certified or Cashier's Check (c) Irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by a reputable bank (d) Bank Guarantee or Bank Draft issued by a reputable bank. (e) any combination of the above proportionate to share of form with respect to total amount of security.

For further information, please contact the Procurement Division, Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg. No. 26, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila or call 7438301 locals 3626/3627 or 3383413 & 3383414.

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the Department of Health..

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:
(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, M.D., M.P.H., CESO II**
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI -- June 20 & 23, 2001)

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BOILERS - CLEAVER BROOKS Water Tube Boiler (1991) D-76-R1-1 50,000 lbs. Steam Cap. c/w Burner; ATELIER HENRI LAROET Water Tube Packs 31S 20 ton/hr Cap ; Boiler Feed Pump Centrifugal Type 45kw; (2) WESTINGHOUSE Boiler Feed Pumps Type 56 kw; (2) Condensate Pumps PEERLES Model 620-A
TRANSFORMERS & SWITCHGEAR - ALLIS CHARMERS 750 KVA, ITE T-5 1000 KVA, FEDERAL PACIFIC T10 2500 KVA, ALLIS CHALERS Substation 3750 KVA, (2) GE 5000 KVA Transformers; (6) ALLIS CHALMERS Air Circuit Breakers 1200A 4760V MA-250-D, MA-250-C
FIRE SERVICES - PEERLES Fire Pump GAF-14; GMC Diesel Engine 250HP 1840 rpm Water Cooled Direct Injection; PEERLES Jockey Pump 1 / 2 as 71 / 2 1891 PM 11KW Motor; Large Qty. Of Fire Fighting Equipment, Complete Distribution & Sprinkler System c/w Valves, Hydrants, Firehoses, & Accessories; A Qty. Of Fire Extinguishers
GENERATORS - (2) NIIGATA Diesel Type 1875 KVA 360 rpm, MEIDENSHA Alternator
MACHINE TOOLS & EQUIPT. - RICHARDS 72" Vertical Borer, HARRISON M550 6H 27" swing x 84" Gap Bed Centre Lathe w/ HEIDENHAIN Digital Readout (1996), NIIGATA 40" swing x 10" Gap Bed Centre Lathe; CARDIFF 21" swing x 78" Gap Bed Centre Lathe; HAUTER CT 1024 10" swing x 24" Centre Bench Lathe; CINCINNATI No. 3 Universal Milling m/c; BRIDGEPORT Turret Milling m/c w/ HEIDENHAIN Digital Readout (1997); AMERICAN 45" Radial Arm Drilling m/c w/ Box Table & Vice, HITACHI B23S 23mm Bench Drill, RECORD Bench Drill; HENDEY 24" Shaper w/ Vice, (2) Hacksaws, 60 Ton Garage Press; Grinders, Bandsaws, (2) RIGID Pipe Threaders; Large Qty. Of Tooling & Machine Accessories; Large Qty. Of Engineers Hand Tools, Pipe Wrenches, Spanners, Hammers, Toolboxes, etc.
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WEIGH SCALES - TOLEDO 2191 272 kg, 2151 2835 kg, 100 kg, 500 kg; METTLER TOLEDO LYNX Scale, TOLEDO Electronic Scale, (2) NUTEX 30 Kg Cap
MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPT. - (6) TOYOTA 3T Diesel Forklifts; TCM 3T Diesel Forklift, (8) YALE 2T Battery Powered Lift Trucks; (2) CROWN Lift Truck, (2) YALE Tow Truck
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MISCELLANEOUS & SCRAP - Large Qty. Of Water Feed & Chemical Treatment, Pumps, Huge Water Tank, Fuel Supply Equipment, Stainless Steel Tanks, Electric Cables, Asstd. Electric Motors; Large Qty of Steel Elevators; Fire Extinguishers, Trolleys & Carts; Mezzanine Floorings, Electric Parts, Canopy; Piping; Water Cooling Tanks; Window Type Air Conditioners, etc.

FOR NEGOTIATED SALE
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AT: MSF Tire & Rubber Inc.
Km. 21 East Service Road, South Superhighway, Sucat, Philippines
ON: Wednesday 4th - Friday 6th July 2001 at 10:30am Prompt
ON VIEW: Monday 2nd - Tuesday 3rd July 2001, 9:00am - 5:00pm & Morning of Sale Days
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php100,000.00 (Upon Registration)

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HAND, ELECTRIC AND PNEUMATIC TOOLS - Ass't'd. Sockets; Ass't'd Wrenches; Circular Saws, Die Grinders, Angle Grinders, Chisels; Impact Wrenches; Spirit Levels; Ass't'd. Trowels; Marking Tools, Carpenters Chisels; Handsaws; etc.
CHEMICALS AND PAINTS - Ass't'd. Paints; Tile Grout; Lime; Disinfectant; Concrete Neutralizer; Alka-Free Concentrate; Silocone; Ass't'd. Lubricants; Asphalt Sealer; HILTI Adhesive Foam; Concrete Hardener, Ass't'd. Adhesives, etc.,
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AT: Wella Compound, West Service Road, Merville, Paranaque City
ON: Tuesday, 26th June 2001 at 10:30am Sharp
ON VIEW: Monday, 25th June 2001, 9:00am - 5:00pm
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php20,000 (Upon Registration)

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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory
in the
1st Death Anniversary

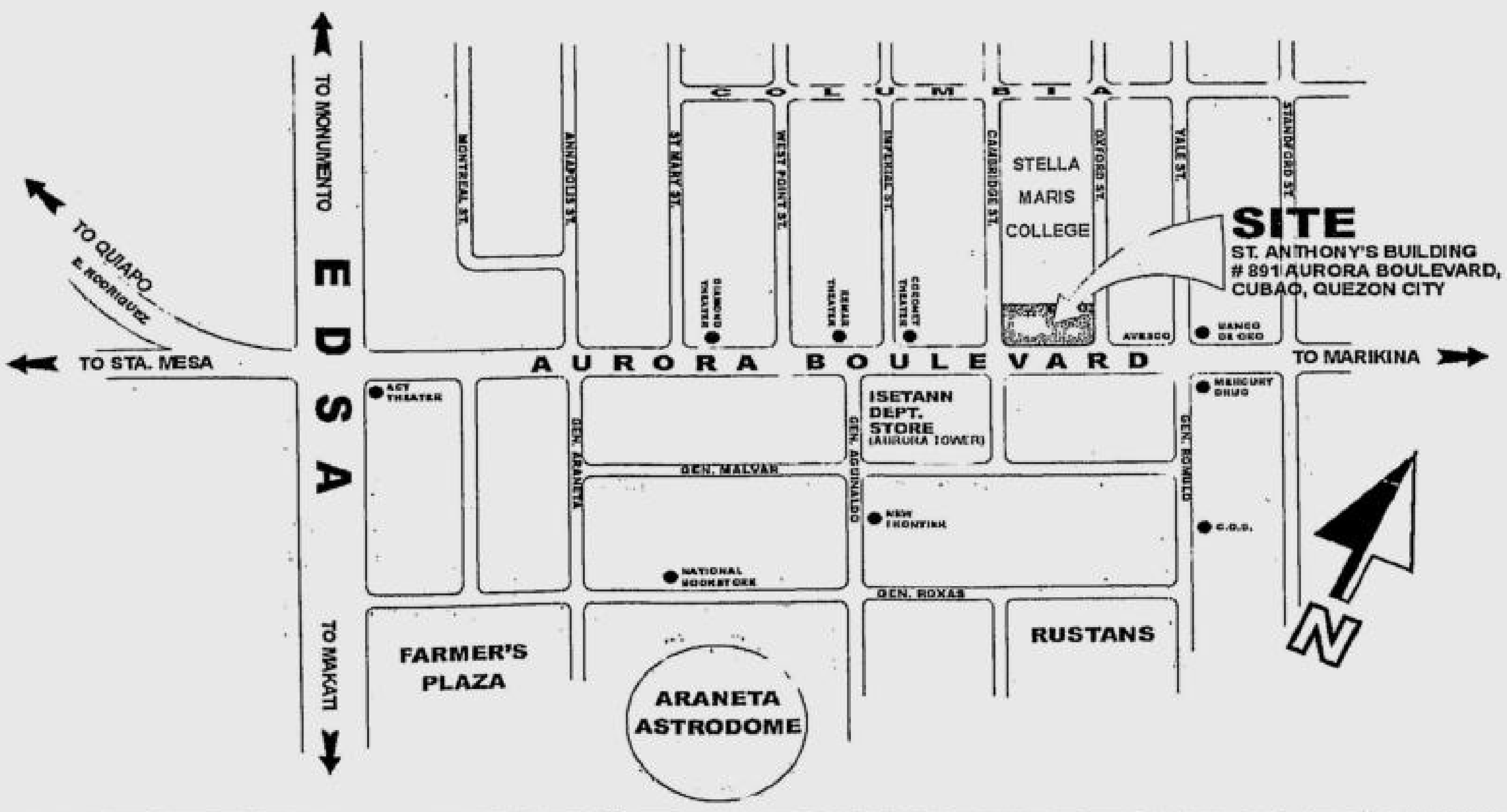
ARTURO C. VALENZUELA

who peacefully joined his Creator on June 20, 2000

Holy Mass will be offered today at the following:

St. Thomas Aquinas Church Brooklyn, NY	7:00 A.M.
St. Alphonsus de Liguori Magallanes Vill., Makati	6:15 A.M.
Santuario de San Antonio Parish Forbes Park, Makati	7:30 A.M.
San Diego de Alcala Parish Polo, Valenzuela M.M.	6:30 A.M.
Don Bosco Parish Pasay Road, Makati	6:30 A.M.
St. Cecilia Church Boston, Manila	7:30 A.M.
St. Patrick's Cathedral New York City	7:00 A.M.
St. Clair Medical Center Chapel Morehea, KY	7:15 A.M.
St. Savior Church Brooklyn, New York	6:45 A.M.
St. Patrick Church Brooklyn, NY.	7:00 A.M.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Quezon City	7:00 A.M.

Starting today, **INQUIRER Classifieds** Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements. For inquiries, please call **421-1420 or 421-0343**.



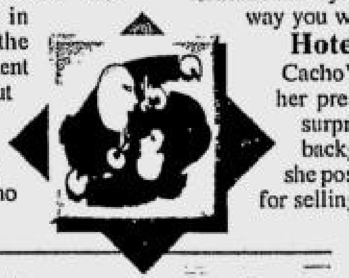
e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE *at* WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

Success means being connected to people

By Cecile G. Garcia



CAREER*Tales*

MAITEL Miñana-Cacho wants to be in a job where she can feel connected with people. And she is, which is precisely the reason for her sales success as membership head of The Palms Country Club. Since she assumed the position last year, she has been consistently meeting sales targets for membership shares to the club. Often, she even exceeds these targets. The Palms is an exclusive resort-type family club being developed by Filinvest in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Perhaps the bottom line for her success is the fact that Cacho is an inveterate lover of people. "If I'm passionate about selling, I'm passionate about people as well," she says. An invaluable result of this and one that Cacho finds immensely gratifying is that her circle of friends has expanded considerably and continues to expand. Cacho maintains warm relationships not only with her teammates and bosses, but also with the members of the community. "I sell to my neighbors in Ayala Alabang, to people I run into in church, the supermarket, the mall, and most of them have become my good friends."

Truth in selling

Selling, according to Cacho, is not about fabricating or misrepresenting facts. "It's about telling the truth and being able to make it sound colorful. You have to be honest and to be sure you can deliver. You must believe in what you're selling or you won't succeed."

Selling membership shares in a luxury facility like The Palms is about meeting targets. "We develop strategies that bring us to these," says Cacho. "We started selling shares in November 2000, at the height of the impeachment trial. It was tough. But we managed to exceed our quota."

When she took the job, the first thing Cacho did was set up a team. "There are nine of us, including a messenger. We're a great team," says Cacho.

While she feels teamwork is behind this success, it's obvious Cacho is gifted with certain traits, which make her a perfect salesperson. "I'm very focused, very positive and very thorough. I'm down-to-earth and easy to talk to. I try to establish rapport with my client. I try to understand him and I listen. I also try to make him know me a little bit as a person."

Cacho further describes herself as a coach, a cheerleader and a motivator. As membership head, she guides and tries to serve as an inspiration to her fellow team members. "I believe in leadership by example. I try to be a positive influence on my team. I would never ask of them what I would not ask of myself." And as far as interacting with her fellow human beings is concerned, Cacho subscribes to a simple formula: Always treat people the same way you want to be treated.

Hotel experience

Cacho's apparent success in her present job comes as no surprise. For aside from her background and orientation, she possesses an innate knack for selling. Selling comes naturally to Cacho who recounts, "I realized this when I was working as account manager at the Mandarin Oriental Manila. I was asked to handle the more difficult clients and I was usually successful with them."

The job at the Mandarin Hotel was Cacho's first. After her graduation from De La Salle University in 1988 (she had majored in Humanities and Marketing), like most of her peers, Cacho went job-hunting. "In the beginning I thought I'd be a banker," she says. But dreams of being one faded and died when a bank she'd applied with turned her down due to some minor technicality.

Undaunted, Cacho set her sights elsewhere. "I thought I'd try working in a hotel. After making inquiries, I found out that Mandarin needed an account manager. I applied and was taken in." Cacho stayed with the hotel for three years. "I was happy there. But I wanted to move on to a bigger challenge." Cacho found this at the Shangri-la Edsa Plaza Hotel, which was then literally a hole in the ground. "I wanted the thrill of being part of a hotel from start to finish," she says.

Other paths

Following her stint there, Cacho became marketing strategist for El Nido (in Palawan). Based in Manila, she lasted a year and a half. Her next job was just as exciting—and somewhat a departure from what she had previously done. Cacho joined Philam Properties, the real estate company of Philam Life, starting out as senior manager. Later on she became AVP and then VP. She's grateful for the four years she spent with the company. "I learned selling and leasing office space was not the same as selling hotel and resort rooms," she says. While the latter is more or less soft sell, the former is more straightforward, very upfront. "You're selling to finance people, expats and it can be intimidating." But Cacho always refused to be intimidated or fazed.

When a close friend of hers offered Cacho the plum position she was then occupying—membership head of The Palms—Cacho found it hard to resist. "My friend had accepted another job. There were other applicants for the spot she was leaving but she wanted me. It was a wonderful opportunity. I found the nature of the job attractive. It was also convenient, being a mere 10-minute drive from where I live."

Hurdling challenges

According to Cacho, she's confident she's hurdled the most difficult phase of her present career. She believes she's over it. It was, of course, the dire economic condition resulting from the political crisis, which developed late last year. Cacho has likewise dealt successfully with a more immediate challenge. "So far we've done well in putting together a credible advisory board composed of men and women of integrity belonging to the community. They are representative of the club's membership. The board screens and recommends prospective members," says Cacho.

But, even so, a more prodigious challenge lies ahead. "We have to make sure the club is professionally run and managed. Standards and quality must never be sacrificed. We have to maintain the club's good name and integrity." The Palms is scheduled to open in May 2002.

PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA

PEOPLE and selling are Cacho's biggest passions.

Sense of belonging

Though she did well in all her past jobs and loved each of them with equal passion, Cacho is admittedly more confident now, more trusting of her instincts and better equipped to deal with every imaginable situation in her workplace. Cacho adeptly combines everything she has learned from hotels, resort and corporate real estate, applying whatever is useful to her position as membership head of a first-class family club.

After merely a year with The Palms, already Cacho feels a strong sense of belonging, of proprietorship, which she admits she had never felt previously. "The other companies I worked with were more bureaucratic and structured. Here, I feel that the owners trust me completely and have full confidence in my capability," says Cacho, who clearly values this trust and is determined to do her best. "There is no perfect job, no perfect boss. But I believe in always giving 100 percent of myself to anything I undertake. I believe too in being consistent and integrated. You have to be a good person to be able to do a good job. You can't compartmentalize."

Cacho candidly admits that she never planned her career. One who lives from day to day, she is averse to blueprints or grand designs. "I take things as they come," she says. So far, every single piece has fallen and fitted perfectly into a niche in Cacho's well-ordered life, which she shares with and devotes to her seven-and-a-half-year-old daughter Isabel.

Surviving the commuter trap in the urban jungle

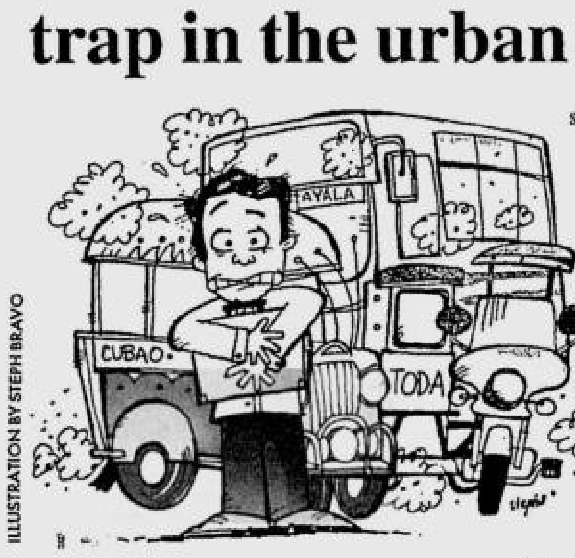


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

By Shirman Tan

POSTCARDS FROM THE CORPORATE *EDGE*

MY weekday mornings usually start with my regular and quite monotonous morning rituals. I perfunctorily brush my teeth, take a quick shower, put on my pressed *barong* and run off to the nearby terminal, where a number of Fx services await vehicle-deficient yuppies like me to take to Makati or some other business district famous for skyscrapers and infamous for traffic.

However, one particular peculiar Monday morning, I noticed something amiss upon reaching the terminal. Instead of the usual line of neatly parked Fx services, I was greeted by the sight of six lines of commuters (in files of tens because that's the number of regular-sized human beings that can fit decently into an Fx), all waiting anxiously for an Fx to arrive.

I went to the sixth file and, with masked concern that I will miss a very important morning meeting, asked the last person on the line the reason for such an unfortunate and untimely situation. (I realized just now that the adjectives unfortunate and untimely almost always go hand in hand.) He answered with a saccharine smile, which, by the way, was very out-of-place given the situation and made me think that he had a full breakfast and reminded me that I hadn't.

"*Pasukan na kasi eh,*" he said and I suddenly pictured the traffic that I will be bearing up with on my way to work, not to mention the undetermined period of time that I will be standing in line immediately after a guy who had a full first meal. I inaudibly grumbled. My stomach, however, grumbled more distinctly.

Watching the anxious faces of each person waiting in line made me wonder if I was the only one who missed breakfast and will inevitably miss an appointment that morning. I wondered how much percent of the working class was, like me, standing in line to get a ride, or worse, stuck hopelessly in traffic. It was then that I realized that I've been part of this statistic ever since I started working in Makati seven years ago. Buses, jeepneys, LRT, taxis, and now, the Fx services, all of them have been part of my commuting experience.

I remember the time when I dreaded to take the LRT going to the office but had to for it was the most convenient form of transportation to Buendia from my area. And I use the word convenient loosely in this case. Sure, you're up to speed with the LRT but getting into one of its trams was like going into a battlefield. Only in this situation, you're not wearing full metal gear but your freshly pressed long-sleeved shirt and light cologne. Both of which you will no longer recognize after you get off your station.

I guess I don't have as much problems with buses. A couple of years back, it was my main mode of transportation going home from the bustling Ayala Avenue. Getting on the bus after a hard day's work usually lulled me to sleep. Unfortunately, it also did the same thing to most of my co-passengers. It annoyed me no end having to subtly nudge a sleepy seatmate every so often just to avoid having his head happily resting on my shoulders. And lest I forget the difficulty of disembarking from a bus especially if you are seated at its farthest end. It's like an obstacle course especially if the bus is packed to its brim. You have to contort and bend your body in more ways than one while constantly shouting out to the driver, "*sandali*" or "*may bababa pa,*" lest you miss your stop and be dropped off a hundred or so meters away.

Okay, so I do have as much problems with buses. But don't even get me started on taxis. I recall how a former officemate and lady friend of mine, known for being so gentle and sweet, hailed a cab at Landmark during rush hour after a heavy downpour (for those who have been in that kind of situation, you know how hard that could be). The driver rolled down his window and asked for her destination. "*Sa* Sucat *po, mama,*" she said, as charming as she could. The driver's eyebrows just curled and in a disdainful tone muttered "*Mag*-bus *ka na lang!*" and rode off. Tired and drenched, my friend did something that was very out of character. She flashed the dirty finger at the taxi that just sped off.

It's trying experiences like these that sometimes make or break our day. Traffic, long lines, lack of transportation, bad weather, pollution, these are the immediate realities that we face in the so-called urban jungle. And that's just half the story. Because for the working class to which we belong, commuting is a prelude and a conclusion to our daily office grind.

Come to think of it, going to work is already a game of survival of the fittest and one has to master the art of commuting if only to get to the office on time, in one piece, and in the right frame of mind. Now, as for surviving in the office... that's another story.

(We invite people at work to share their thoughts, feelings and experiences on work for better understanding in the workplace. Send your musings and reflections from the "corporate edge" to Regina G. Reyes, People at Work Editor, through her e-mail address, rreyes@ inquirer.com.ph.*)*

When people change, a city can change

RECIPES*for* LEARNING

By Moje Ramos-Aquino

THE MORE you travel abroad, the more you long for the Philippines, Filipino food, Filipino warmth and friendliness, Filipino smiles, the Filipino version of chaos and circus in everyday life, the traffic, etc. What I do not miss though is the general apathy towards the daily rape of the environment and the lack of respect for fellow Filipinos in the streets.

I was in New York City in 1994, when New York City was generally dirty and filthy. The entrances to the waiting areas in subways were full of shady characters, and at nine in the evening, police patrols accompanied the trains to ensure the safety of the commuters. The streets were littered with all kinds of yuck.

42nd Street thrives happily on pornographic shows and sideshows. It is scary to walk the streets of Manhattan after nine in the evening or at any time of the day and night. There are muggers, pickpockets, holduppers and con men blatantly doing their tricks just about anywhere in the famous city. The taxi drivers are something else. Your car stops at a red light, some guys will suddenly splash your windshield with soapy water, wipe it in a jiffy and demand with a threatening stance payment for services rendered whether you don't like it or you really don't like it.

Pleasant surprise

What a very pleasant surprise to see Manhattan clean, not, maybe, as clean as San Francisco, but, nonetheless, clean. Even cleaner than my City of Manila. The entrances of the waiting areas in subways are clean and the only people walking around are train passengers. My son Adrian and I would walk leisurely or take the subway undisturbed from the theaters (Nederlander on West 41st Street, Neil Simon Theater on West 52nd Street and Astor Place on Lafayette Street) to our hotel, the venerable Pennsylvania Hotel right in front of the Madison Square Garden on Seventh Avenue and West 33rd Street after each show (Rent, The Music Man and The Blue Men Group "Tubes"). We would stop to look at some shops or buildings and pick up a fresh fruit salad and bottled water along the way, content and happy.

It took tremendous political will and courage from Mayor Rudolf W. Giuliani and the people of the Big Apple to transform the cosmopolitan city into a more liveable one.

You don't need to take a time out to do this. It is considered part and parcel of every city officials' job and every resident's duty and every business concerns' social responsibility to rejuvenate the city you draw power, energy and wealth from, to take care of it and dignify it.

Attitude change

The remarkable thing is that nothing really changed physically. There are practically no new buildings, especially in Manhattan (I don't know about The Bronx or Harlem because we did not venture there.). Really now, the charm of New York City and other famous and well-loved cities in the world emanates from their historied past that are etched, not in books, but in significant places and buildings that they painstakingly restored and lovingly maintains. More importantly, what the Mayor and the New Yorkers have done is simply to clean and spruce up the city of all kinds of dirt and filth. No fancy facelift there. 42nd Street is now home to Broadway shows, no more X-rated shows. If there are sex workers at night, they are not obvious. It was a transformation first of the attitude of people towards their city, then the physical renewal came slowly but surely.

Kailan naman kaya mangyayari ang transformation *ng Maynila?* As the song goes, "If I could make it there, I'll make it anywhere...." I guess even the New Yorkers are themselves surprised at how beautiful and resplendent New York City is these days. It takes a person with b—ls to do it. It can be done. But the time is now before it gets worse. It is the second term of Mayor Atienza as Mayor so perhaps...Please *naman* Mayor, *para na rin sa magiging apo mo upang may maipagmalaki siya kapag nagkukuwento siya na naging* Manila Mayor *ang lolo niya noong araw.* It is now the opportune time.

Whatever personal problems Mayor Giuliani is having right now, I am sure New Yorkers of today and tomorrow will always be grateful to him.

My priority in Orlando, Florida was to attend and learn much from the ASTD 2001 International Conference and Exposition and, therefore, I wasn't able to see much of Orlando except the route between Best Western Plaza and the Orange County Convention Center, both along International Drive and BWP and the Disney Institute.

We visited some friends and relatives in Berkeley and San Francisco in California on our way home. Both are clean, quiet and well-organized, they are predictable and boring save for the year-round cool weather. I'll live and love in Manila till Kingdom come.

(E-mail feedback to Moje.Ramos @Aquino.ZZN.com.*)*

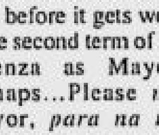
Kodak
TIMES SQUARE GALLERY

MY son Adrian in clean New York City

What do you do if your team isn't working?

WORKING WOUNDED

By Bob Rosner



DEAR WW: A consultant suggested that I create a cross-functional team at my company, but I'm starting to think it's a waste of time because it's been six months and all we've accomplished is a lot of meetings.

Not A Team Player

The day of my high school prom I woke up with a case of the runs. Nerves? Bad pizza? I didn't care. I just wanted it gone. So when my buddy Bednar handed me some medicine, I plastered it right to my lips. What possessed me to stop suddenly and take a look at the label? I don't know, but it was sure a good thing I did. The medicine wasn't the cure for what ailed me: he'd handed me a laxative.

That morning I learned the importance of taking the right medicine, a lesson that's just as important in business. Your consultant is right: teams can be the right medicine—but only if used as directed. For advice on teamwork, I teamed up with "Fast Company," a business magazine that's got its finger firmly on the pulse of today's frenetic workplace. The following tips were adapted from an article in the February/March 1998 issue, "Team Doctors, Report to ER!" (with credit to consultant Jon Katzenbach).

- Does your project really require a team? Working with a team is like walking a mile in someone else's shoe. It can be useful if you need a shoe, but it can also produce blisters. So don't do it unless you really need a blend of skills to solve the problem. Ask yourself the following: Do I already know the solution? Could the individuals on the team solve the problem more easily if they were working alone? A "yes" answer and you might think about doing it another way.
- Can you handle the inefficiency of a team? Teamwork is a lot like making sausage: you can get a great result, but it takes time and isn't always a pretty sight. So don't do it unless you can stomach the irritations. Ask yourself: Do I need the solution to this problem ASAP? If so, teamwork may not be the best way to get it. Am sI generally impatient with "process?" If so, asking one person to work on the problem may be a more palatable way to find the answer.
- Can you relinquish control? If you're still calling the shots, your team isn't a team. No wonder it's not working.
- Did you give the team a clear mission? Are your team members asking, "why are we here?" If so, they may need a clearer goal with measurable results. Try something like, "what specific strategies can we implement to reduce inventory?" rather than "tell me how to make things better."

There are a lot of good reasons to have teams at work, but this was all I could digest and pass on in 500 words. Wish I could do more, but well . . . I've got to run.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: What song do you sing when it comes to teams at work?

—"That's the Way (I Like It)," 29.6 percent

—"That's Where I Went Wrong," 31.8 percent

—"That's the Way I've Always Heard It Should Be," 38.4 percent

Our winning team strategy comes from A.N. in Palo Alto. "I work in a corporate culture that emphasizes working in teams, sharing, reaching group decisions, etc., but has a reward systems that's based on individual contribution. This makes team work interesting . . . Garbage in, garbage out is a reality for people as well as computers."

(E-mail feedback to bob@ workingwounded.com.*)*

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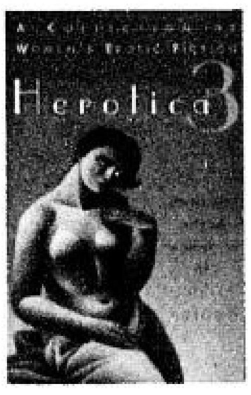
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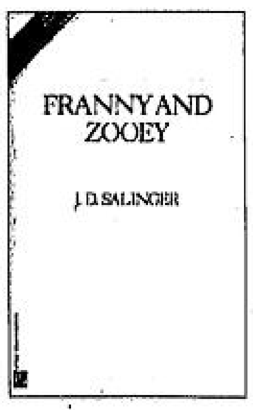
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CONTRARY to what adults think, there are a lot of young people who cannot live without books.

On this space, some 2bU! correspondents share their unforgettable page-turning indulgence.

"The Outsiders"
By S. E. Hinton
The Penguin Group, 1967

"The Outsiders" is probably best remembered as a movie. Directed by film school brat Francis Ford Coppola, it stars young actors who eventually became Hollywood screen gods (Matt Dillon, Patrick Swayze, C. Thomas Howell, Rob Lowe, Emilio Estevez, Ralph Macchio and Tom Cruise). But the movie was based on a novel written by a 16-year-old girl. Although set in the late-1960s, it has something to say about the present.

The novel is about the dangerous hostility between two gangs of different social classes: the Socials and the Greasers. The former are Westside rich kids while the latter are Eastside social outcasts—the "outsiders."

I like the story because it reflects our present situation as a country, where people are divided by classes and levels of affluence and poverty. The lesson I learned? "Everybody sees the same sunset." *Sheryll Lopez*

"The Evolution Man, Or, How I Ate My Father"
By Roy Lewis
Pantheon Books, 1993

Originally called "What We Did to Father" when it first came out in the 1960s, this long out-of-print bestseller debut by Roy Lewis shows what happens when human evolution meets sitcom television, resulting in an uproarious tour de force of anthropological proportions.

With an eye-catching title that can get anyone hooked, this book chronicles the "correct" accounts of how a Stone Age man lived. It tells us how he first harnessed fire, cooked and courted. It also provides glimpses of the first philosopher, prophet, artist, naturalist, engineer, scientist and inventor, giving us "clever" tips on interior cave decoration and clueing us on everyday Stone Age lifestyle.

Our young cave man hero Ernest (the reluctant middle-child in an upwardly mobile cave family) gives us a hilarious, sometimes endearing and dramatic, first-hand narrative through the late Pleistocene era, recounting the revolutionary efforts of the greatest apeman of his era. His father-leader-teacher-prodigal inventor Edward transforms his motley crew of a family/tribe into dominant species and sets off a chain of events that leads to his inevitable consumption.

This page-turner is addicting and will make you laugh out loud like a hyena on weed until the very finish. Albeit a guiltily fun read, this book (in all its caveman humor and apparent simplicity) still speaks profoundly of social constructs and the essentials of the human condition that still echo through in today's slapdash contemporary situation.

Hey, not bad for a caveman, right?
Mervin Espina

"Kuwaderno"
Edited by Midori Abalos
Saint Louis University, 2000

"Kuwaderno," a literary folio from the top university in the City of Pines, consists of everything from serious, life-compelling drama to whimsical satires. Forty-three literary works by 20 writers and 38 artworks by five artists follow the introduction of literary editor Midori Abalos, "Enter the realm of the damned."

Interesting poems are "Victim" and "Diary" by Celeste Chua, "Sa Isang Karinderya sa Likod ng Otto Hahn" and "Malas" by Aisha Lanette de Guzman and "Fritz" by Glenda Lim. Funniest poem is "Coño on the Run" by Kristofferson Cabungan, which last line goes, "I'm just making *tangkilik* our *sariling wika*."

The short stories are all standouts in their own way. "When Kites Fail to Fly" by Socrates Padua talks about childhood memories while "Kwentong Lansangan" by Jeffrey-Des Binwag is about young activists.

The winners of a Baguio literary contest in 1999—"Spoliarium" (poetry) by Frederick Tello, "Sa Mga Bumubuhay sa Lupa" (poetry) by Felipe Gali III and "Ang Kaibahan ng Tao sa Aso" (short story) by Marivic Sangalang—are included. The last line of "Spoliarium," "For ART is an open wound to an opened eye," best describes this 124-page book.
Ronald Lester Leyva

"Best-Kept Secrets"
By Sandra Brown
Warner Books Inc., 1989

This romantic, erotic, suspense fiction is all about a woman of wit, grace and defiance who gets caught in the lure of irresistible adventure and unexpected twists of fate.

In this book (and along with other books she wrote), Brown celebrates femininity with her scandalous, strong-willed and love-struck female character. Brown also celebrates masculinity with her drifting, passionate and gorgeous male character.

Brown awakens sexuality and lifts it to a natural high. The strong characterizations and the tight plot are storytelling with a passion.
Michelle Pino

"The Bridge Across Forever"
By Richard Bach
Dell Publishing, 1989

If there were a book that made me an insomniac, "The Bridge Across Forever" would be it. This may sound chauvinistic, but the fact that a man is writing about love really deserves the word "amazing" on this space.

The protagonist (obviously Bach) is a bachelor-playboy who, after earning over a million dollars in book-writing, flies planes for living and fun. He believes that the time has come to search for a true love no matter what the costs. He finds not "the perfect woman," but "the woman just perfect for him." In short, he is able to find his soul mate—"someone who unveils the best part of us...someone who makes our life come to life." "The Bridge Across Forever" makes you hang on and wait for "the perfect man." Bach gave me hopes to wait for my "Mr. Right." Let me not put a word on this space: "positively waiting." Well, that's actually two words!
Lisa Sobreviñas

"Illusions: The Adventures of a Reluctant Messiah"
By Richard Bach
Dell Publishing, 1977

New-Age philosopher Richard Bach introduces us to Donald Shimoda, a real messiah. The story begins with a written parable from the mouth of the Master for a prelude.

Readers are then introduced to the writer's first-person narrative—he is a pilot, mulling over his life—and his eventual meetings with Shimoda in the vast cornfields of Illinois. The story brings to new heights the popular, almost trite saying, "If you can dream it, you can do it." In here, Donald flies a plane with a very able maneuver, and—get this—walks on water. Plus, he is charming, too.

"Illusions" is basically a tale of two completely different persons united for a reason, padded by advices on life that are contained in a handbook devoid of page numbers, aptly called the "Messiah's Handbook: Reminders of the Advanced Soul." It is, believe it or not, a real handbook on soul-searching. A sample: "Here is a test to find whether your mission on earth is finished: If you're alive, it isn't."

I first read this impeccable story two years ago for a book report and as much as I have time on my hands, I open the book randomly and just feel the words, cheesiness aside. Every year, as I have found, this book brings different messages to me, applicable to my present situation.
Maureen Tañedo

"Manananggal Terrorizes Manila and Other Stories"
By Jessica Zafra
Anvil Publishing Inc., 1992

Zafra's only "real" book (to date) boasts of 15 engaging stories, involving at least one idiosyncratic character. A stalker is the lead star in "Face in the Crowd" while an actor, so good he acts all the time, gets the spotlight in "Romeo, et al." A problematic Richard Gomez look-alike takes centerstage in "Doppelganger" and a bassist in love with his instrument is the subject of "The Wide Open Eyes of Madness."

My personal favorite is "Scylla and Charybdis," a love story and definitely a *telesine* (or *teleserye*) material. I wonder now who would star in this one.

After the last page, I have concluded that this book mirrors Jessica's interesting personality sans the cat-eye glasses and the baritone.
Niño Mark Sablan

"Mona in the Promised Land"
By Gish Jen
Vintage Contemporaries, 1997

Gish Jen's fresh spin on the issues of identity and multiculturalism takes the perspective of a teenage girl, Mona Chang, in 1970s New York where the Chinese are considered as "the new" Jews." While Mona's adolescent adventures take place almost two decades before our own coming-of-age, her experiences are very funny not only because of the author's Jane Austen wit but also because you will catch yourself saying, *"Ngek, parang ako 'ata 'yan!"*

All the familiar ingredients of teenage life are here: the strict parents, the "model" older sibling, romance (and yes, a smattering of sex—this was the '70s), arrogant defiance of authority, even the questioning of religion. While the picturesque flashbacks of ancient Asia, folklore and legends of other Asian-American novels are missing from Jen's work, the storyline still shows distinctly Asian colors. They shine through in the strong bonds of family, the desire to succeed in life according to the standards of the West, and the struggle to adapt traditional Eastern values to the modern world—all of which Jen weaves into Mona's everyday ups and downs.

Jen doesn't give a handy recipe for a happy life that youths caught between the East and West can simply follow. However, Mona's tale of success gives us enough inspiration (with gregarious humor) so that we can hope to do the same.
Julie Hudtohan

"The Quartet of the Tiger Moon"
By Quijano de Manila
Book Stop Inc., 1986

I never got skeptic when I bought this book sold for a bargain price of P50. In the book, Quijano de Manila (the journalistic pen name of Nick Joaquin) blends Chinese astrology and the People Power revolution. De Manila vividly shows that tiger as symbol for rebellions and upheavals, which, as we all know, characterize the most memorable four days in Philippine history.

It is the only book that documents events as they simultaneously happen. Aside from the reportage, the book also has pictures of famous Edsa personalities, which vividly capture the spirit—of '80s fashion, that is.

From cover to cover, "The Quartet of the Tiger Moon" clearly shows what happened while I was just singing "Jack and Jill."
Ronald Lester Leyva

"Missing Angel Juan"
By Francesca Lia Block
Harper Trophy, 1995

This book is unfairly lumped together with young adult fiction titles. In it, Francesca Lia Block infuses much-needed verve into an already hackneyed genre. "The Weetzie Bat," a succession of brief (a hundred or so pages), fits-in-your-back-pocket novellas, are my sentimental favorite.

The series chronicles the lives of 12 unique and unusual characters living together in Los Angeles. Echoing Bertolt Brecht, the protagonist Weetzie Bat is the sugar-spun punk fairy with spiky bleached blond hair married to My Secret Agent Lover Man, the symbol of Shangri-La, where all your starry-eyed dreams come true.

On the other hand, her stepdaughter, Witch Baby, a fast furious drummer with tangled black hair and purple eyes, is a figure straight out of Hell-A, the deep dark underbelly of the city. Rather than pit the two against each other as forces of good and evil, Block lauds the idiosyncrasies of every persona that readers may identify with someone they know (maybe readers will find even themselves in the characters).

"Missing Angel Juan," the fourth in this series, brings us along Witch Baby's journey following her boyfriend Angel Juan to New York City. But "Felicity" this is not (though the theme may be similar). Block's trademark style shakes off excess melodrama; in its place, she infuses her own brand of modern lyricism. Her writing simply sparkles with truth and bristles with reality all the while weaving its spell and unfolding like a song.

In "Missing Angel Juan," the ghosts of New York City (whether real or imagined), leads Witch Baby to realize the vise-like grip of fear and love as redemption.
Tiffany Limsico

"Crazy"
By Benjamin Lebert, as translated by Carol Brown Janeway
Vintage International, 2000

Sixteen-year-old Benjamin Lebert casts a charm on readers in his debut novel. Told in monologue and teenage slang, the novel's protagonist is coincidentally named Benjamin Lebert. Ditto with his physical disability, a partial paralysis on the left side. But this is not the German author's autobiography.

The fictional Lebert has been kicked out of school four times. He obviously cannot play sports. Many girls find him strange. His parents are always quarreling. He finds his own set of friends in his new boarding school, where he gets his sexual awakening. The group's idea of fun is sneaking into the girls' dorm, visiting a sex clinic and making a fugitive city trip. Eventually, Lebert is kicked out.

Overall, the novel dishes out the all-too-familiar adolescent worries on girls, sex, friends, school and family. The voice is a typical angst-ridden teen that makes candid insights like "Literature is where you read a book and feel you could put a little mark under every line because it's true."

Admittedly, "Crazy" is not without flaws. Some parts are sketchy and unconvincing. Others are unoriginal. But the emotions are all true.
Jasmine Payo

"Timeline"
By Michael Crichton
The Ballantine Publishing Group, 1999

Michael Crichton, the great "ER" creator and "Twister" screenwriter, tackles the "futuristic past." The novel chronicles the journey of four graduate students back to the 1300s, when Sir Oliver de Vannes (an English knight who conquered the towns of Castelgard and La Roque in France) goes to war with the defrocked monk Arnaut de Cervole, also known as the Archpriest.

What first seems like just a rescue mission turns into a battle as the students race against time to unlock secret passages, traverse through dense forests, beat French and English lords, and save their history professor—all in a matter of 37 hours! It takes a suspenseful twist, as they discover that some lunatic from their time has been there for years and is determined not to let them beat the deadline.

The novel is well researched. More than just a fantasy, "Timeline" is a salute to the medieval past and a tribute to the wonders of modern science.
Catherine Young

"The Feast of Love"
By Charles Baxter
Vintage Books, 2000

This book treats the reader to a sumptuous buffet of human emotions—ranging from the utterly insensate to the profoundly philosophical—that this thing called love generates. The reader also gets the chance to taste and savor the different varieties of love as the characters, whose lives are intertwined in more ways than one, take turns in revealing their innermost thoughts.

Charles Baxter is victorious in what seems to be a fashionable attempt to project the relatively small town of Ann Arbor, Michigan as a microcosm of the biosphere we all inhabit. His style of letting his characters speak for themselves (albeit not quite unique) lends credibility to their bittersweet narratives.
Edwin Vinarao

"On the Verge"
By Karen Kunawicz
Alamat Entertainment Inc., 1999

Karen Kunawicz serves us her heart and soul like a sumptuous buffet on a fine piece of silverware in her maiden book, "On the Verge."

She shares with us her love affair with the moon, her list of different kinds of kisses, how she spent most of her college years alone and what she would do with a steak knife on a date.

Meaty, dripping with honesty and visually yummy, Kunawicz is worth reading and rereading, preferably with a great-tasting designer coffee (or your *kapeng barako*).
Niño Mark Sablan

"There's a Hair in My Dirt! (A Worm's Story)"
By Gary Larson
HarperCollins Publishers, 1998

"Far Side" creator, Gary Larson, tries penning something for the grown-ups in a kinder way. "There's a Hair in My Dirt! (A Worm's Story)" is a terribly entertaining and wickedly funny satire cum biology class sans the usual boring hang-ups. This book, cunningly masqueraded as a fully illustrated children's book, was apparently cooked up especially for the pre-Nickelodeon generation complete with wildly neurotic puns disguised as profound ecology lessons with highly amusing facts.

The star attraction of this story is, of course, the worm. This worm is affected by identity crisis, self-pity and existentialist angst when he sees a single strand of blonde hair in his dirt, and launches into the typical "I hate being a worm!" tantrum like some human pubescent you know (or am I one of them?).

The crisis sparks an ecological fable about an unlikely nature lover named Harriet, who, as most readers would realize, actually represents the rest of humanity (yes, Harriet is also you, too!).

The book ends with a Memento Mori, reminding us all upwardly mobile anthropoids of our ultimate and inevitable, albeit nutritious, end.

Well, at least for the life span of the worms.
Mervin Espina

"A Child Called 'It'"
By Dave Pelzer
Orion Books, 1995

With all the memoirs today, only a few leave a permanent mark on readers. One of them is "A Child Called 'It,'" the international bestseller recounting the life of David Pelzer from age 4 to 12.

Pelzer describes in detail his mother's emotional instability, recalling the abuse she subjected him—from burning his hand in the gas stove to feeding him baby excrement, from nearly starving him to death to making him drink ammonia. With every misdeed that his mother commits, Pelzer slowly becomes more hardened to life, almost believing that there was no way out of his personal hell. Yet he was determined to survive at all costs.

This book affirms that childhood "should be carefree, playing in the sun; not living a nightmare in the darkness of the soul."
Catherine Young

Compiled by Ronald Lester Leyva

Books we grew up with

By Chrissy D. Icamina
2bU! Correspondent

"CARE Bears," "Thundercats," "Flyi House" and "The Wonder Years." Th are just the few television shows whi make us reminisce about our seemin oh-so-long-ago high school and colle days. But it's not only television sho that watched us cross our adolescent ye from our preteen years. Different auth witnessed us grow up as well. Their boc have, in one way or another, helped cope with or simply forget about our o growing pains while reading them.

Roald Dahl, Enid Blyton, Judy Blu and Beverly Cleary have written books t saw us through our younger years. Blume wrote "The One in the Middle is a Green Kangaroo," a book on the torments of being a middle child. Among her other books, she has also come up with the well-loved Fudge series, which narrates the adventures and misadventures of Peter Hatcher, his nemesis Sheila Tubman and his mischievous yet lovable little brother Fudge.

Cleary has a knack for writing a series of children's books as well. Seven books authored by her found the character Ramona Quimby grow up from a 4-year-old to a fourth grader in the Ramona series. She has also tackled the pains of dealing with separated parents and being the new kid in school through the character Leigh Botts in "Dear Mr. Henshaw." Ralph S. Mouse, on the other hand, depicted the life of that phase we've all gone through being the self-proclaimed "misunderstood kid" in "Ralph S. Mouse," "Runaway Mouse," and "The Mouse and the Motorcycle."

A personal favorite, Blyton awakened in us environmental awareness when we were younger. Her books tackle stories emphasizing nature and animal life. Her adventure series in "Farm Books," "Faraway Tree" and "Hedgerow Tales" are just a few of her published works that show her love of nature, particularly through the vivid depictions of natural settings.

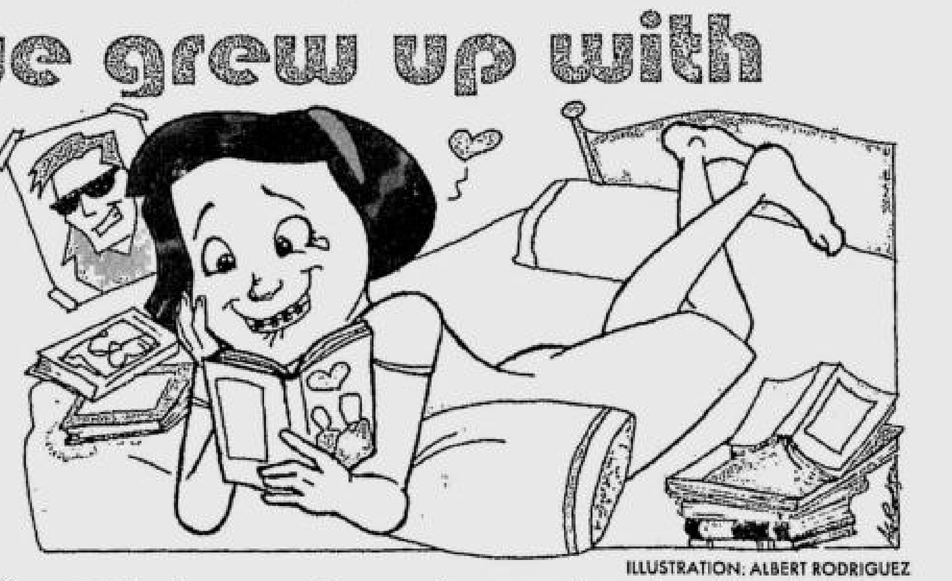


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Dahl has become popular not only among readers but moviegoers as well as some of his books had been made into movies. We'd seen a poor boy's wish come true in the imaginative tale "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." We'd also witnessed the adventures of a boy named James in "James and the Giant Peach." And who can forget Dahl's most cunningly lovable young heroine in "Matilda"?

Interesting series

Some books have also been instrumental in rousing the young's interest in mystery, action and adventure. "The Hardy Boys" or "Nancy Drew" have whetted their appetite for mystery. Hergé's illustrated series "The Adventures of Tintin" have entertained us with its peculiar characters and fascinating global settings. On the other hand, the widely renowned "Choose Your Own Adventure" presents mind-twisting "life-threatening" decisions that determine the protagonist's victory or doom.

In another genre of young fiction, you know you're a bit past your teenybopper years if you insist that Jessica and Elizabeth Wakefield's teen experiences were written in the "Sweet Valley Twins" books because its equivalent now is "Sweet Valley Jr. High." Aside from the popular teen twins' puppy love exploits, a dose of young romance is experienced through the Sweet Dreams series as well. Any girl who's read Sweet Dreams' "P.S. I Love You" can't deny that the book has at least made her teary-eyed. Following in the footsteps of the "classic" teen romance paperbacks is Love Stories. (I can still remember the fuss over the Love Stories edition "Language of Love" wherein a Filipina was its lead character.)

Teen suspense has occupied a phase in our growing-up reading years as well. R.L. Stine's Fear Street series like "Sleepwalker" developed paranoia in some of us; we secretly look behind our backs while walking through dark streets. Another personal favorite is Christopher Pike, who's known for his writings on the supernatural and sci-fi. In his classic "Remember Me," young readers experienced the other dimension of life. His other notable works include "Final Friends" and "The Last Vampire" series.

How fast time flies is not only evident in technology development. The books we read as we were growing up likewise measured how much we've matured almost as accurately as a tape measure. Just like when family computers weren't so cool anymore, we knew we were getting too old for Sweet Valley Twins as well.

E-mail the author at impure_thoughts@atenista.net

Out of the box and into the readers' hearts

By Leslie Ann C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

HOW does it feel to read someone else's mail?

I would say it would be exciting. Intriguing, at the very least. The "Griffin and Sabine" trilogy provides us with that unique opportunity, minus the guilt. It presents to us the extraordinary correspondence between two artists, Griffin Moss and Sabine Strohem, in a very tangible way. And I'm not just talking about the author's clear description of emotions and scenes. I'm talking about real letters and real postcards pulled out from makeshift envelopes. I'm talking about vivid colors, unique penmanship and startlingly loaded images.

A publishing phenomenon, "Griffin and Sabine" sold over three million copies and spent 100 weeks on the New York Times' best-seller list. Even though it debuted a decade ago in 1991, the trilogy can still be found lining the bookshelves of Powerbooks and Page One, proof undeniable of its tremendous appeal.

Without knowing it, Nick Bantock has created a genre that defies easy categorization. Bantock started his career as a painter and went on to become a book cover illustrator. He continues to challenge himself in producing out-of-the-box works that enthrall his readers. His later works include "The Egyptian Jukebox" (a treasure hunt made up of collages of paintings), "Averse to Beasts" (an illustrated poetry book accompanied by a tape), "The Venetian's Wife, Paris Out of Hand" (a replica of a 19th-century travelogue), "The Forgetting Room," "The Museum at Purgatory" (a post-death journey), and "The Artful Dodger" (an insightful autobiography with 350 resplendent images).

Interactivity takes a step forward with the popular 'Griffin and Sabine' trilogy

"Griffin and Sabine" was just the beginning. How did it start? "The principal answer is that I was in my post office and jealous at somebody else's letter," Bantock says. "So, I decided to start writing letters to myself. But then, I thought they'd probably drag me off to the loony bin if I did that. So I got the idea that I'd write this correspondence between two people. But I decided it would have images."

And what a beginning it was! I assure you, you cannot read the book and finish it, without going through it again to look at each stamp and each postcard, more closely this time. This is what gives Bantock the deepest sense of fulfillment. To bring back a sense of appreciation for art, in a very inconspicuous way, that's Bantock's joy. When people stop looking across pictures and start looking into them, then it opens up a much, much richer world.

As Bantock says, "Images are powerful creatures— use them as an antidote to wordiness." So allow me to stop this gibberish.

Bookmarks for bookworms

bookmark, n.—something t placed between the pages of a to mark a certain section or place; a medium where "senti" messages are written especially for the person you are giving it to; a book's best friend

BY ANDREA AGUIRRE
AND CELESTE GOMEZ

AS the popular ad goes, "Milk in my cereal, coffeemate for my coffee..."—bookmarks are for bookworms! But hey, not just any kind of page marker will do. That's why we looked for various kinds of bookmarks fit for certain types of bookworms...plus a perfect book to pair it with!

1. **The naturalist bookworm:** Nature-loving people bookmark—made from recycled paper and definitely 100 percent biodegradable.

Price: P 2.50 each

Source: Papemelroti

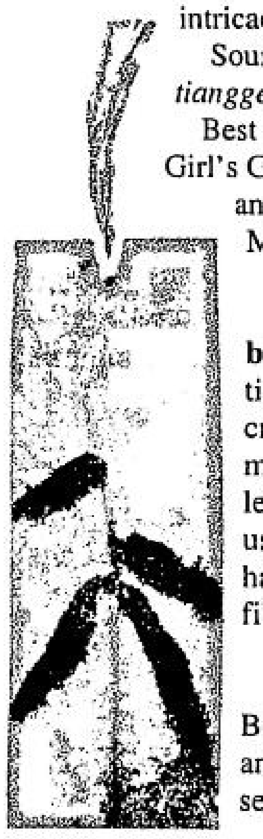
Best paired with: "Hope for the Flowers" by Trina Paulus

2. **The hip and trendy bookworm:** Colorful, stylish and fun bookmark—made from various colorful threads woven and twisted to create psychedelic patterns and designs.

Price: Ranges from P25-P40 depending on the intricacy of the design

Source: Greenhills *tiangge*

Best paired with: "A Girl's Guide to Fishing and Hunting" by Melissa Bank



3. **The creative bookworm:** Artistic, resourceful and crafty bookmark—made from dried leaves and flowers usually pressed in hard plastic or fiberglass.

Price: P25 each

Source: Boracay's *talipapa* and in stores that sell Negros crafts

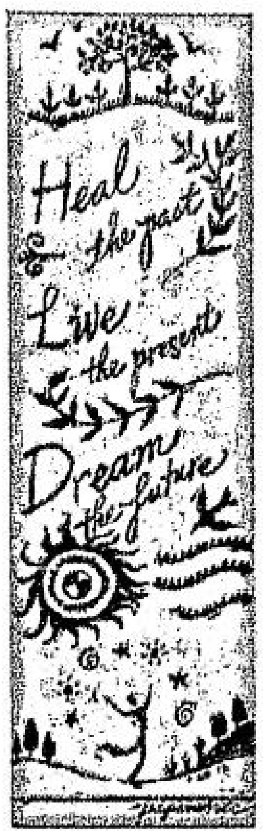
Best paired with: "The Griffin and e Trilogy" by Nick Bantock

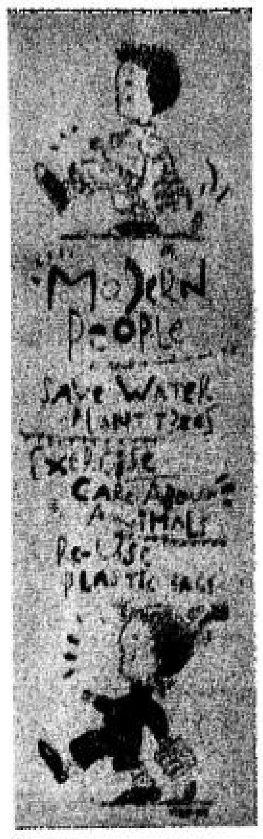
4. **The dreamer bookworm:** Sentimental, imaginative and loves entering the fantasy world bookmark—usually just a simple paper-printed kind of bookmark with quotes, sayings and meaningful messages.

Price: Ranges from P11-P15 each

Source: (Hallmark bookmarks) bookstores

Best paired with: "The Solitaire Mystery" by Jostein Gaarder





"Be a torch
or be a spark.
Be a candle
in the dark.
Be a sunbeam
or a star.
Be the shining light
you are.

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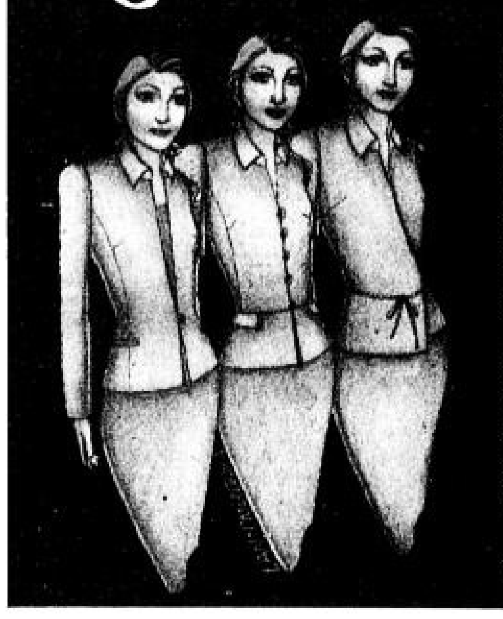

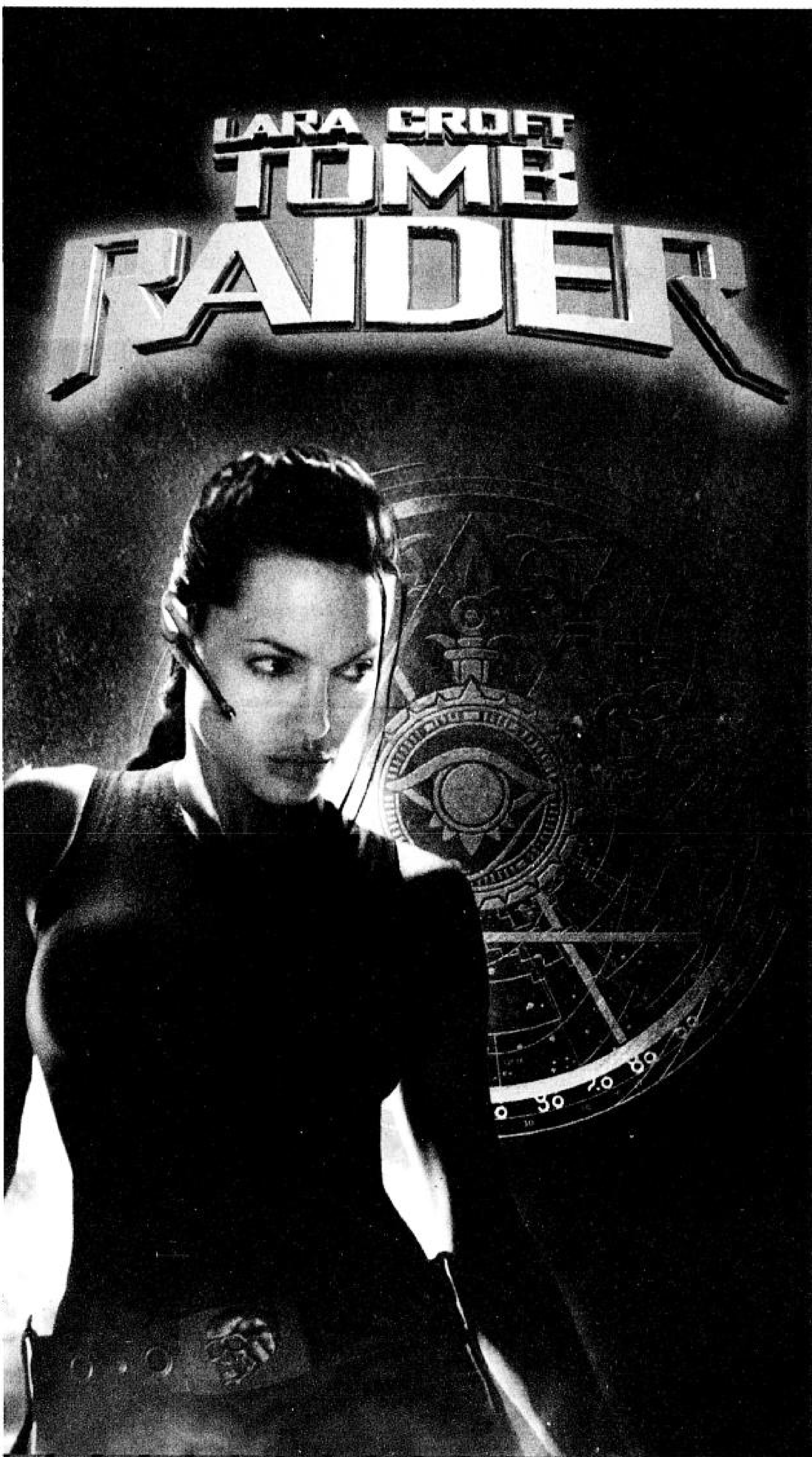

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****For all malls except SM Centerpoint
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*For SM City Fairview, SM North Edsa & SM Megamall at 3 pm

Catch the Action
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SM City Fairview, June 24
SM City Bacoor, June 29
SM City Iloilo, June 30
SM City Manila, July 1
SM Southmall, July 6
The SM City, July 7
SM Pampanga, July 8
SM Centerpoint, July 10 & 11
SM Super Center Sucat, July 13
SM City Cebu, July 13
SM Megamall, July 14

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SM City Cebu, June 18- July 2, 10 am to 9 pm

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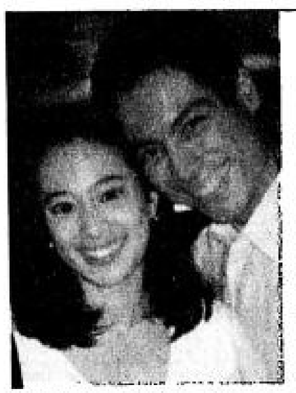
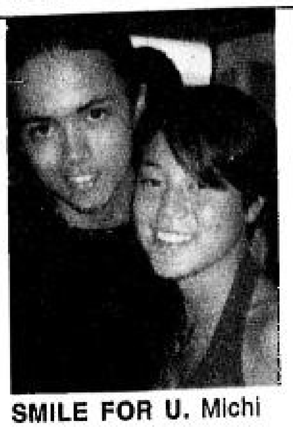
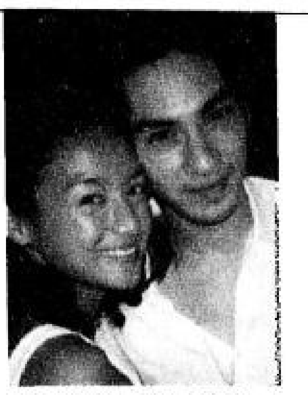
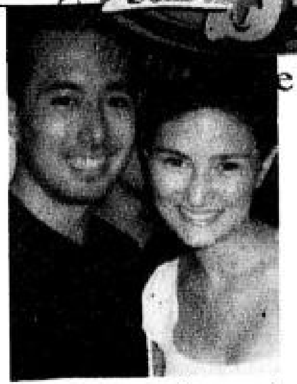

U BREED. Cousins Pia Bayot and Jon Jon Rufino

GENERATION U. Vernice Nieto and Bianca Zobel


SMILE FOR U. Michi Valeriano and Franco Villanueva


STRUAN AND TAN... TOCO. Struan Wallace and Bea Tantoco

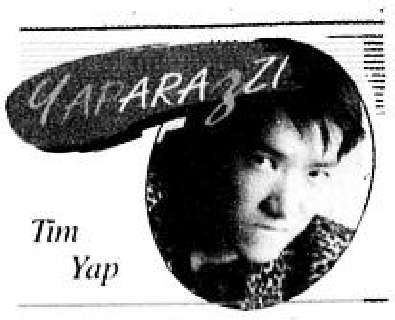
TAB-U BEHAVIOR. Amanda Griffin and Isabel Engwa


RAYMOND Rufino and his goddess Anna Palabyab

U Team of Gina Bonoan and Karina Yan

CITY spunk on Liaa Favis and Abby Binay

Welcome, Generation U



Tim Yap

ENTER the scene's new guard. Last week's launch of Rustan's latest U floor was an unprecedented VIP gathering of the young and vibrant key players in style society—the "new front row," as W mag would put it.

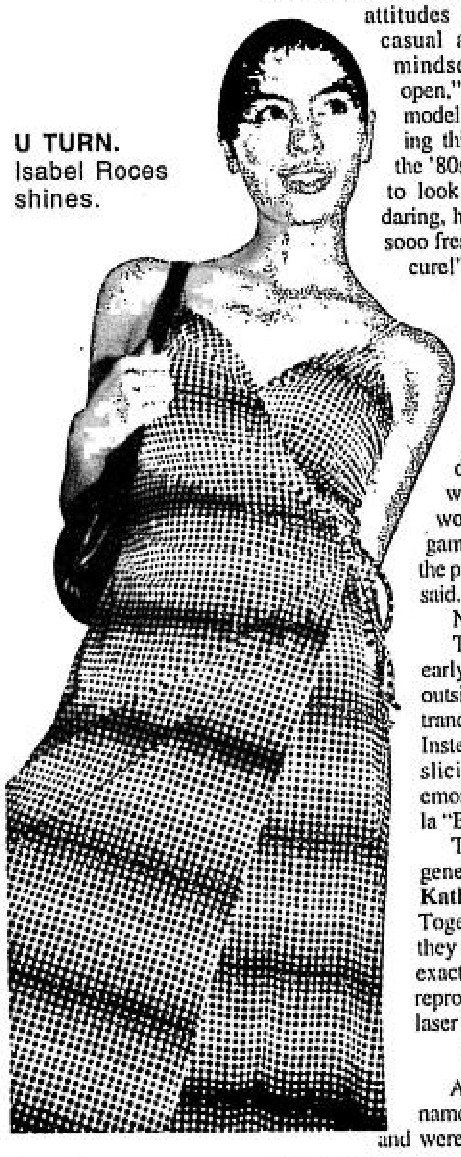
"Young people nowadays are less intimidating; their attitudes are very casual and their mindset very open," observes a VJ slash über model friend of mine, comparing this generation to that of the '80s and early '90s she used to look up to. "They're more daring, have better bodies and look sooo fresh—they make me feel insecure!" she says in half jest.

While she is right in a lot of ways, this generation, weary of being misunderstood, and christened as GenX, GenY or whatever (stop it already, please; save that for other consumers), does not have it as easy as what our "elders" think. "The world wants me to play the game, but I see in everything the promise of change." Enough said.

Now back to the party.

The evening started quite early with guests assembling outside the G4 cinema level entrance of the store at 6:30 p.m. Instead of the usual "ribbon slicing" (yawn, yawn) ceremony, a high-tech laser lop-off scene à la "Entrapment" was held.

The chief "inaugurists"—all third-generation Tantocos—include **Mike, Katherine** and **Nina Herrera-Huang**. Together with **Joel** and **Bea Tantoco**, they held a glass device (a mirror, to be exact) which, after the U countdown, reprogrammed the green laser to form a laser beam U tunnel.


U TURN. Isabel Roces shines.

The U establishment

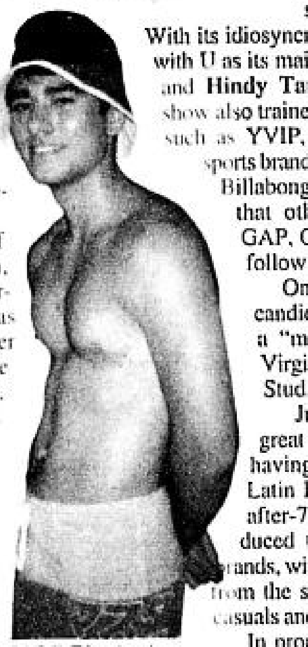
As guests entered, they were given name-plated U tags around their neck and were made to sign on the U signature wall. U-aproned characters distributed Chalk magazine and other goods at the venue. Inside, a sprawling Bon Appetit buffet and Stolichnaya Vodka bar served scintillating cocktails to the young AAA-list who were ready swaying to DJ **Robbie Tantoco**'s chill house set.

Part of the Rustan's great theory of evolution, U aims to serve the new establishment. With its idiosyncratic merchandise offering and with U as its main brand (designed by **Katrina** and **Hindy Tantoco** with **Rhett Eala**), the show also trained the spotlight on other brands such as **YVIP**, Shoe Salon, a cosmetic bar, sports brands like Adidas, Nike, Quiksilver, Billabong, Fresh Jive and the like. I hear that other international brands like GAP, Old Navy and Lucky jeans will follow as well.

One interesting section features candies, aptly renamed Happy Pills, a "moisture-rinsing" cream called Virgin Again and a lotion nicknamed Stud. Dig that!

Just as the guests were having a great time looking around the store or having U-inspired henna tattoos, a Latin house music segue by sought-after-78 Orange DJ **Kevin Ruiz** introduced the fashion show featuring U brands, with a parade of "it" girls and guys from the scene, in surf, military, relaxed casuals and funky formal ensembles.

In prom night fashion, funky awards were given out to the night's spunky set. Later, DJ **David Jacob** proceeded with his progressive house tunes, as the city's pedigreed partyphiles grooved to the U beat.


MODEL Josh Lambert before the show

U-isms and this week's hip happenings

I remember a restaurateur friend of mine telling me that the Philippines is "going to the dogs," what with everything that's happening—from the bar closings to the kidnappings. He just wanted to go to the US or Canada and reestablish there.

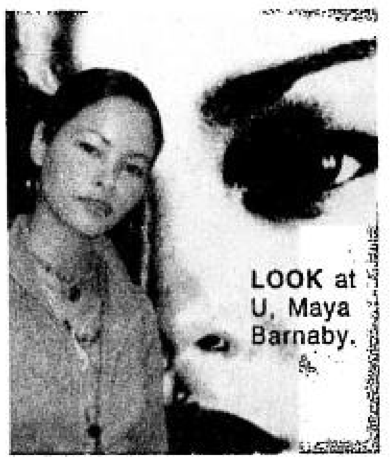
Looking at the crowd gathered at the floor, I felt differently. Nothing inspires me more than seeing our generation take shape. From the looks of it, I hope things get better. I know it will or, as Dr. Seuss puts it, "unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it is not."

This week's hot happenings. Today is McDonald's 20th anniversary, so grab that Big Mac and large fries and toast to Ronald's second decade here in our shores. Use your arms to form the "M" on your head—here's to more.

On Thursday, Buffalo Jean hosts the "Tomb Raider" premiere at G4. Expect this Halloween to be full of Lara Croft wannabes, after Queen Amidala and "Matrix" dudes. After that, Pravda (the former Beluga bar) hosts its opening party that night, with party comrade **Paolo Trillo** at the helm of the festivities.

On Friday, NBK hosts UK DJ 16B in Manila at Whereelse at the Hotel Inter-Con. Also that night, new drink Tequila Rose will be launched via a "pink chic" fete at Venezia.

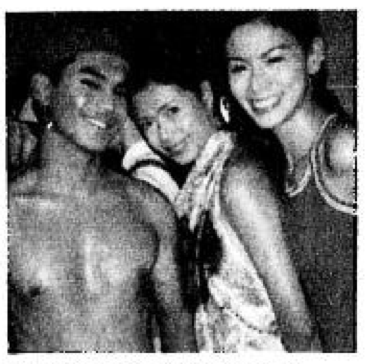
I'll leave today's outing with another of Dr. Seuss' U-isms, "So be sure that when you step, step with great care and tact. And remember that life's a great balancing act."

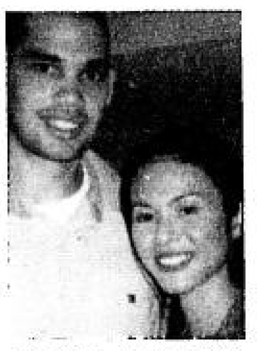

LOOK at U, Maya Barnaby.

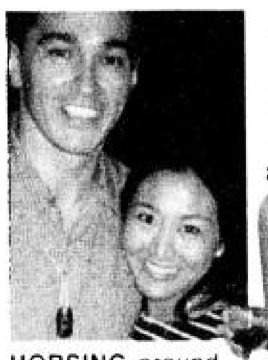
WISH I WERE U... Hendrick checks himself out.

PEACH AND PLUM. Jesse Maxwell and Paola Zobel

PAMPANGA'S BEST. Vice Gov. Mikee Arroyo and Angela Montenegro


"WHO is the fairest of us all?" asks Glenn Enriquez, Lotis Villa and Eazel Don


MODEL ATHLETE. Danny Seigle and Kyla Fernandez


HORSING around with Vince Hizon and Toni Leviste

FLORAL PLEASURE. Crickette Tantoco at U

U ESTABLISHMENT. Kat Tantoco and Hindy Weber-Tantoco

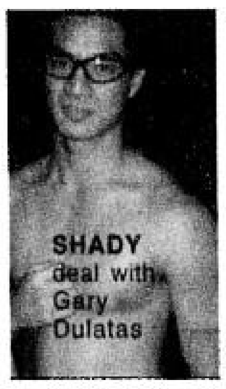
AMERICAN PIE. Maia Pega, Cutie del Mar, Cheska Garcia and Maricor Garcia

U DA' MAN. DJ David Jacob

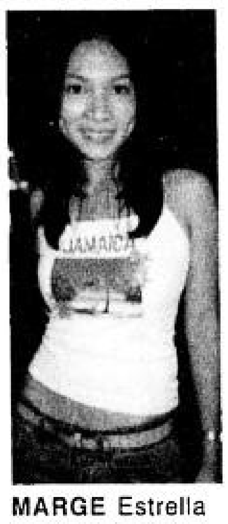
"WHAT the world needs now, is love, sweet love," sings director Robbie Carmona.

CHILL house set of Robbie Tantoco

CHARMED. Cris Villonco


SHADY deal with Gary Dulatas

SWIRLY BIT. Maite Araneta glows.


MARGE Estrella is Miss Jamaica.

MILITARY puff girl spotted at U.

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

Miracle tablets for weight loss

MAKE OVER 911
Kinny Salas

YOU walk into a health food or herbal store to look for some miracle "natural" tablet that will help you lose/control your weight. Upon asking the attendant, they shove all these supplements in your arms. You read the labels and they say nothing about what this is for and much more, how it helps you lose weight. The attendant gives you some lame answer with no guarantees. I myself was tempted to try Bangkok pills but was scared to death of being jailed for possession of illegal substances.

The most common weight-loss "all-natural" supplements are Chromium Picolinate, Garcinia Cambogia, Pyruvate and Glucomannan. I did my job and researched regarding the pros and cons. One thing you have to remember is that because something is all-natural it will keep you immune from overdose and complications.

Chromium picolinate: It seems that people who lack chromium in their bodies tend to be overweight. CP has been around for a few years now. It is a dietary supplement whose main purpose is to process fat and carbohydrates so they are digested and won't stay in our bodies. Some friends of mine who take it claim they've lost their cravings for sweets like chocolates, ice cream and cake. CP is also found in food supplements like broccoli, cheese, mushroom and apples. The RDA (recommended daily allowance) is 50-200 micrograms. Every health store has this tablet.

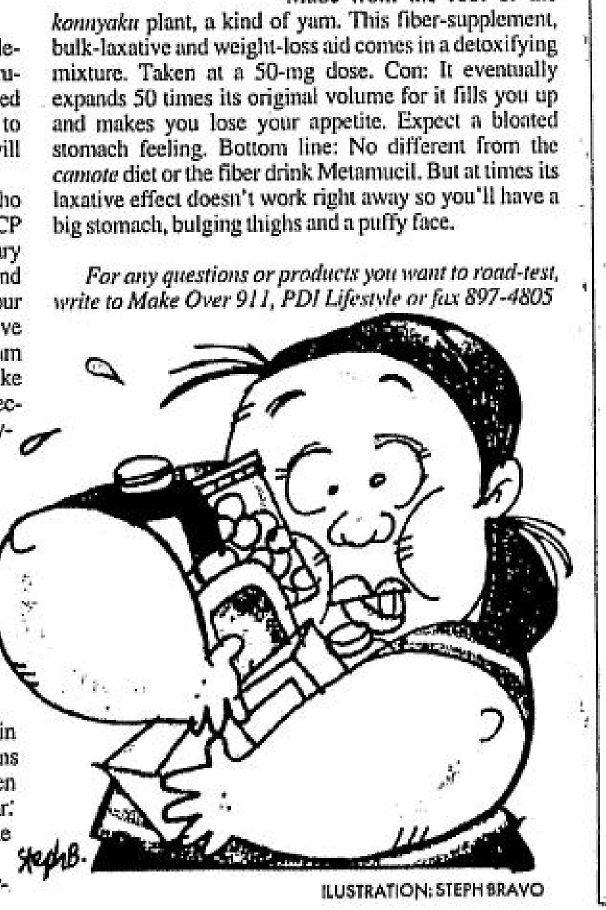
Bad press: Pro: A fat-burning, muscle-building, blood sugar-lowering, life-extending miracle; con: CP is the sleaziest ingredient in all miracle tablets. The kind that promises a loss of 50 pounds in one month. There isn't a shred of evidence that supplements help people shed fat and build muscle. Allure magazine advises to forget it because it's all hype.

Garcinia cambogia: A yellow fruit found in tropical countries. Its extract is designed to make meals more filling so you eat less, but feel full. It also aids in fat digestion and reduces hunger. Very high in hydroxyl citrate, which stops the enzyme that turns your excess calories into fat. Most effective when taken 30-60 minutes before a meal. No negative press so far. Except on me, as the tablets didn't help me lose a single pound.

Pyruvate: Pros: Weight-loss aid that boosts endurance by 20 percent, meaning you can exercise longer. Con: No studies have been done with women on normal diets. Bottom line: A metallic product of glucose, pyruvate has been shone to increase the amount of fat on women who were overweight and have had restrictive diets. It may burn a little more fat, but the weight bounces back when you stop taking the supplements.

Glucomannan: Pro: Made from the root of the *konnyaku* plant, a kind of yam. This fiber-supplement, bulk-laxative and weight-loss aid comes in a detoxifying mixture. Taken at a 50-mg dose. Con: It eventually expands 50 times its original volume for it fills you up and makes you lose your appetite. Expect a bloated stomach feeling. Bottom line: No different from the *camote* diet or the fiber drink Metamucil. But at times its laxative effect doesn't work right away so you'll have a big stomach, bulging thighs and a puffy face.

For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Make Over 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax 897-4805



ILUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

She's in a quandary whether to study in France or in the Philippines

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Carlos,

I am 15 years old, an only daughter and I come from a broken family. My mom decided to live in France for greener pastures. I go there every summer to visit her and explore Europe. Ever since, my mom wanted me to move in with her and study there. I didn't want to because I'm such a papa's girl and I love my friends.

My father wants me to finish high school in the Philippines. After which, I could go to any college I desire. He says I would be more mature by that time. A part of me believes my father is right.

Should I stay and continue my studies in the Philippines, or should I let one heck of an opportunity pass by? Should I stay with my mom and continue my education in Europe instead?

Carpe diem,
TEREANCE

If you really want to study in Europe (and I know you do), follow your own words: Carpe diem. Not everybody can get as lucky as you are so don't waste the opportunity to get a good education.

Don't worry too much about your parents; there's more to their disagreement than just your education. Whatever their real problem is, they should resolve it between themselves instead of influencing you and using you as a pawn.

You can tell them to talk things over with each other. Better yet, have everybody, including you, hold a discussion so you can all hear each other's side. A direct confrontation would be better than just having your parents individually tell you what they want you to do.

Also, it would be good to let them know you don't like being made to choose sides, which is what your parents are exactly doing, whether they admit it or not. Reassure them, most especially your father, that your choice only concerns what you think is good for you and not the way you feel about them. Whatever ending your family dilemma would have, I hope it would be for everybody's good. Best of luck.

SEP

William Shakepeare said something to the effect of "All of Europe's a stage, and Europeans merely players." You bet they are. Viva La Continent of players. *En España*, alcohol *es muy barato, y la mayoria de 'la bar' en España estan abiertos a las quatro de la tarde*. French people make good wine, or so I've heard; the lovemaking, a little too infallible to be true, so always inquire as at ISO accreditation.

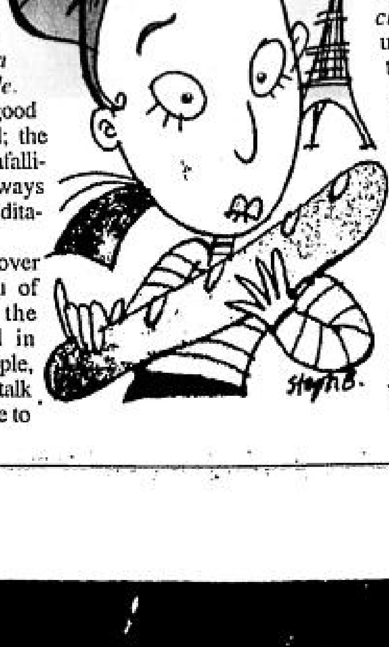
But many things over there will remind you of home, giving you the opportunity to blend in very easily. For example, people over there like to talk with their hands, we like to point with our lips. We're practically family. While driving their narrow streets, it is very easy to signal with your hands and even our more passionate hand gestures would be very recognizable there as well.

I don't know much more about tourism there, but off the top of my head, I could name some popular destinations that'd make your trip educational and fun. Oktoberfest, for example, is held in Germany some time during the colder seasons. The Leaning Tower of Pisa has been "repaired," though it still looks "leaning" to me. If you want to be alone and go some place relatively unvisited, go to EuroDisney. For the best Koffee Shops in the world, go to Amsterdam.

There should be many, many places to see; ask questions with a cute, exotic accent! Find a guy named Armand who owns a motorcycle to show you around as soon as you learn the basics ("*Voules cous*... buy me a drink?"). But if he takes you out to watch all 35 bridges in London under the moonlight, you've found *el cheapo* with motor oil under his fingernails. Not that I have anything against a man who works on his machine, neither do I have anything against bridges nor romantics. It's just that the guy is gay, as most of them in Europe actually are.

But don't take my word for it. To see Europe at its best, watch National Lampoon's European Vacation.

CARLOS



Coffee, sex and Susie

Are Pinays ready for erotic literature?

MOST Filipino women remain prudish about sex. 2bU! asked five correspondents to take a look at a controversial erotic literature, "Herotica 3," edited by Susie Bright, one of a six-part book series on women's sexual fantasies and experiences. And our eclectic young girls share their thoughts on Susie's collection over coffee.

The common denominator of all the erotic stories in "Herotica" is that women are in control of all the sexual actions. Is this the feminism idea behind the book?

Cathy Young: I think so. For a long time, women can't talk about their sexuality. But not only are we talking about it now, women are directing things.

Jasmine Payo: Women fantasize and desire sex just as much as men. I think that's the main point of this collection. Like don't you find it unfair that the thought of guys being horny is such a normal thing, while girls who feel the same are promiscuous and considered sluts?

Andrea Aguirre: Exactly. And I think it also introduces that women are sexually powerful and that men are not always in control of everything.

So how do these erotic stories fit in the whole women's lib and feminism?

Lisa Lim: Keep in mind that the hard-core feminists are saying they are setting back what they tried so hard to bring forth. That it's degrading women.

C: Yeah, some feminists think this is pornography. But here we have another set of feminists who encourage erotic fiction. People have different notions of what feminism really is. Some say it's equality between men and women while the others think that women should be over men.

J: But I think what's more apparent in the book is that women should simply be more open in expressing their sexuality.

C: I'd go with that, it's not exactly about women being degraded.

Would you classify the book as pornography or literature?

Sam Refran: I think it's not really pornographic. The book is just opening the door to something we don't know.

But do you think "Herotica" is a good read?

J: Yes, you actually get a lot of tips and ideas.

A: It's not only erotic literature, it's also a manual, a dictionary and a thesaurus.

What do you think of same-sex relationships in the first story, "A Date with Marcie"?

S: I was shocked. Really shocked. I find girl-girl relationships disturbing. I don't know, maybe I'm just from an exclusive school. But I think guy-guy relationships are more disgusting.

J: Why? They're pretty much the same.

So are these erotic stories better than porn movies and smut magazines?

J: Men are more visually oriented and Playboy will always work for them. And I think women would find these erotic stories far more interesting.

A: But to me, *natawa lang talaga ako.* It's all comic to me.

C: You keep thinking about the plant. And the centaur, the "bruising on my hips because of the whipping tail." (Laughter)

Any details that disturbed you?

J: Every time they resort to another form of sex. I just don't find it erotic at all.

L: Yeah, shouldn't there be a sign that says "exit only"? (Laughter)

Do you think the book is for the Filipino woman?

S: When you talk about the regular Filipino woman, probably not.

J: Definitely. Some would think it's *bastos* or *kadiri.*

L: Actually, that was my first reaction. Just read the introduction. It sort of justified it.

Are high school girls ready for "Herotica"?

A: It's not a bedtime story book. But it wouldn't be right to impose an age limit. It's for a girl who already has an idea on sex.

J: It's a good way for young girls to understand more about sex, something beyond the academic.

C: Or beyond the medical, like in a biology class.

A: Yeah, like you have all the emotions and sensations.

L: I grew up in the province though. If I read this in high school, I'd probably be scandalized out of my wits. It's different when you grow up in the province because you're not really exposed to this.

How do you think Catholic-bred girls would take it?

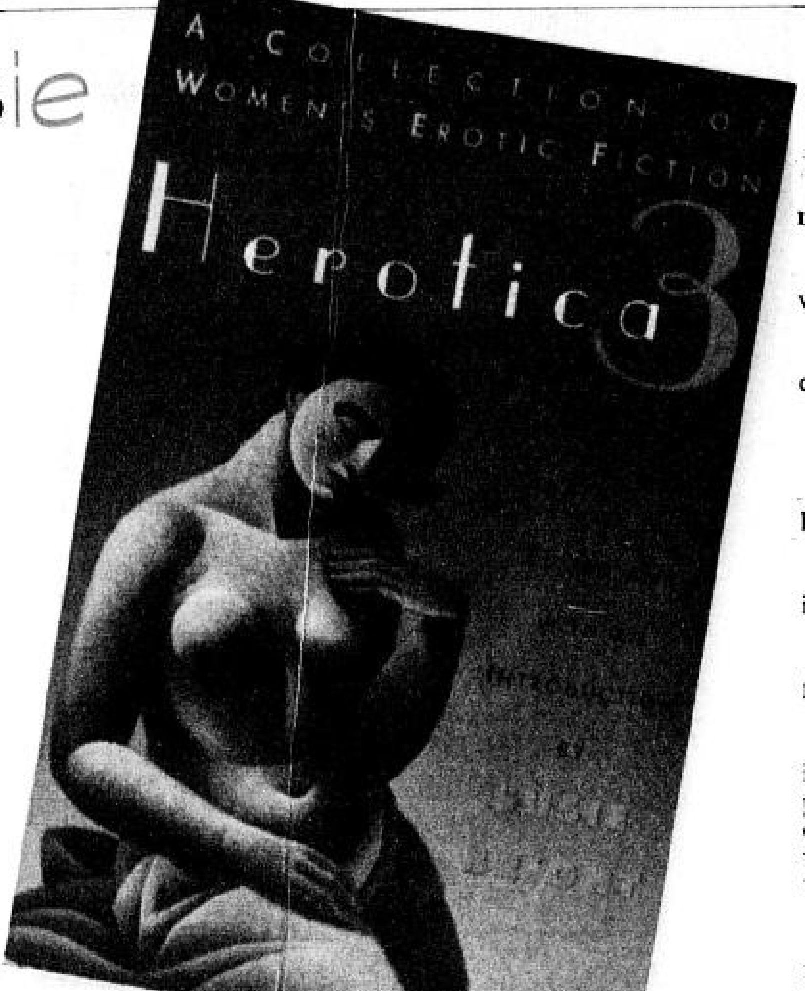
C: I wouldn't talk about this to a nun. (Laughter)

S: When you read it, you tend to imagine and visualize things.

J: So does that amount to impure thoughts? It's not like you're going to act on them.

A: And the nuns, the priests, the pope, they're also human and they must have had such thoughts once in a while.

C: Maybe they also have these thoughts, they have neurons. But it's different when you start thinking about it all the time.



How do you think guys would take "Herotica"? Would it be a turn-on?

S: I think so. I already have this guy friend who is asking me to make *kuwento.*

L: They'd probably see it as something they could use.

Do you plan to read books 1 and 2?

L: I don't think I'll be reading more of it. But honestly, I think it's a good book.

A: I'm actually open to reading them. If this is the third book, then it must be something.

J: Yeah, it got me interested to check out the first two books.

L: But for one thing, it's also expensive. But if someone I know has it, then I guess I could probably read it. For sure I'll read the introduction. Susie Bright has a lot to say. Though not always right about everything, she deserves to be listened to.

C: There are lots of criticisms against erotic fiction, so I don't think I'd also respect the book if she really didn't justify it.

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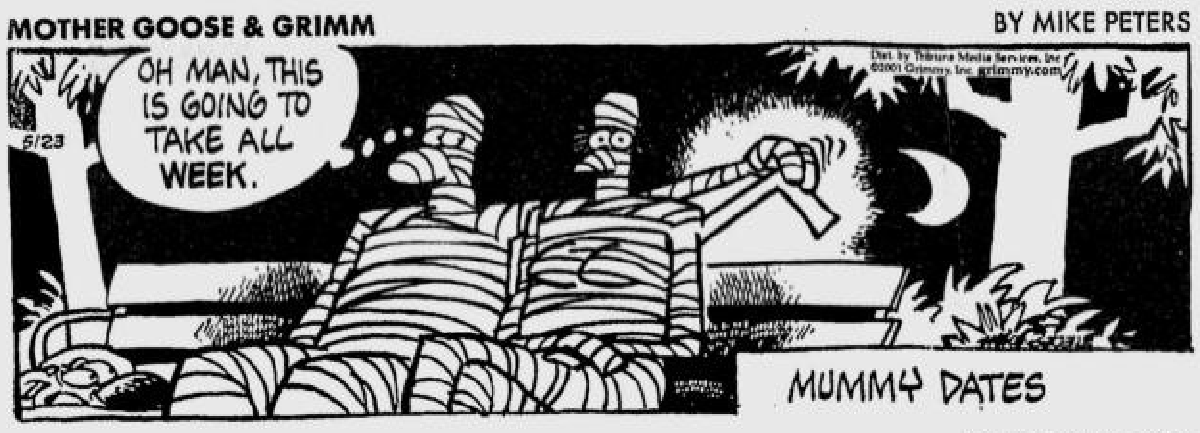
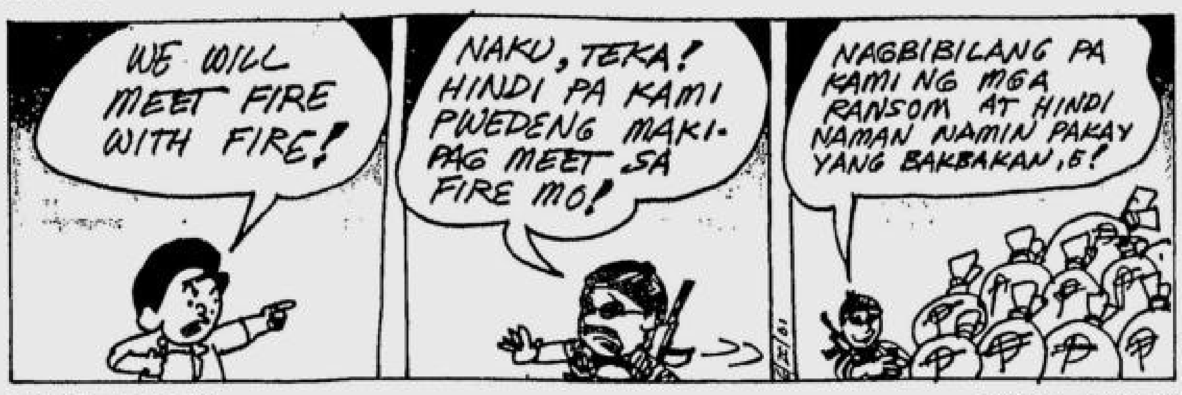
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


5/23
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc ©2001 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com
OH MAN, THIS IS GOING TO TAKE ALL WEEK.
MUMMY DATES

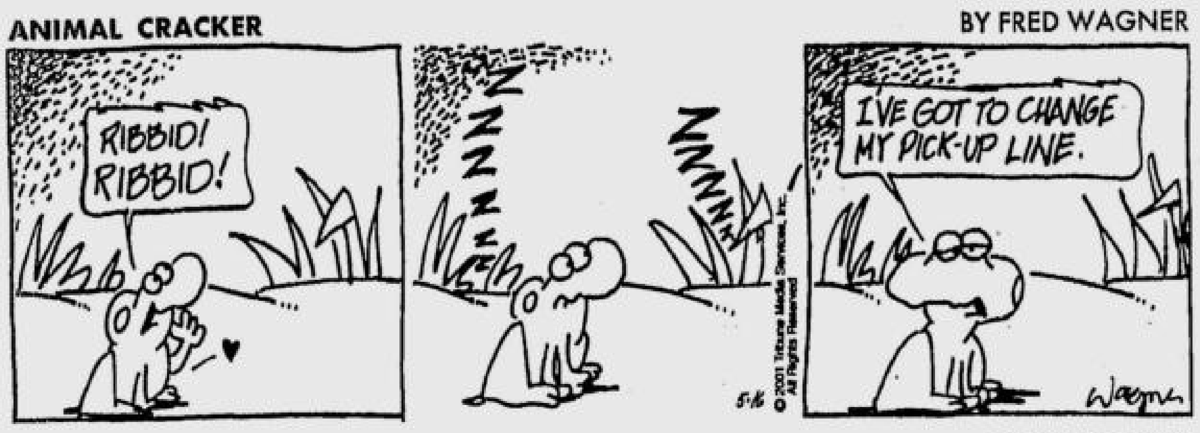
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


WE WILL MEET FIRE WITH FIRE!
NAKU, TEKA! HINDI PA KAMI PWEDENG MAKI-PAG MEET SA FIRE MO!
NAGBIBILANG PA KAMI NG MGA RANSOM AT HINDI NAMAN NAMIN PAKAY YANG BAKBAKAN, E!

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


RIBBID! RIBBID!
I'VE GOT TO CHANGE MY PICK-UP LINE.
5-16
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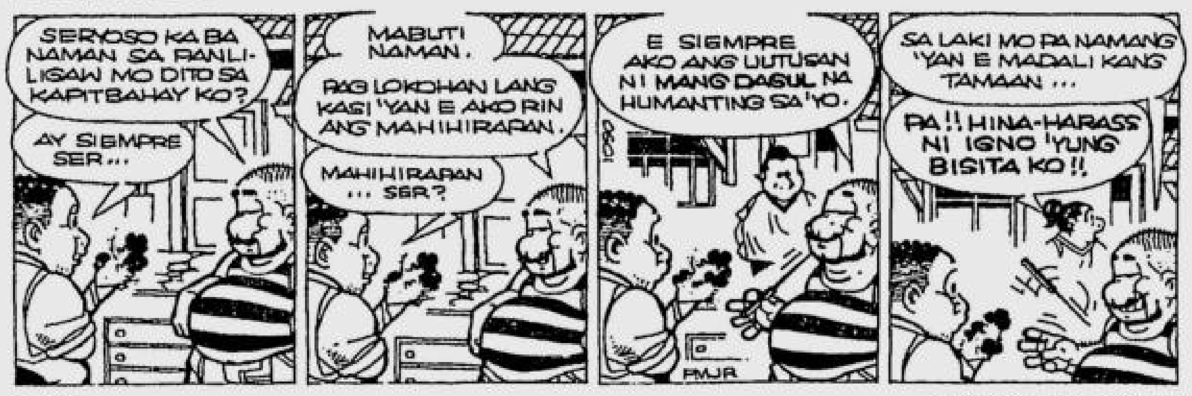
Wagner

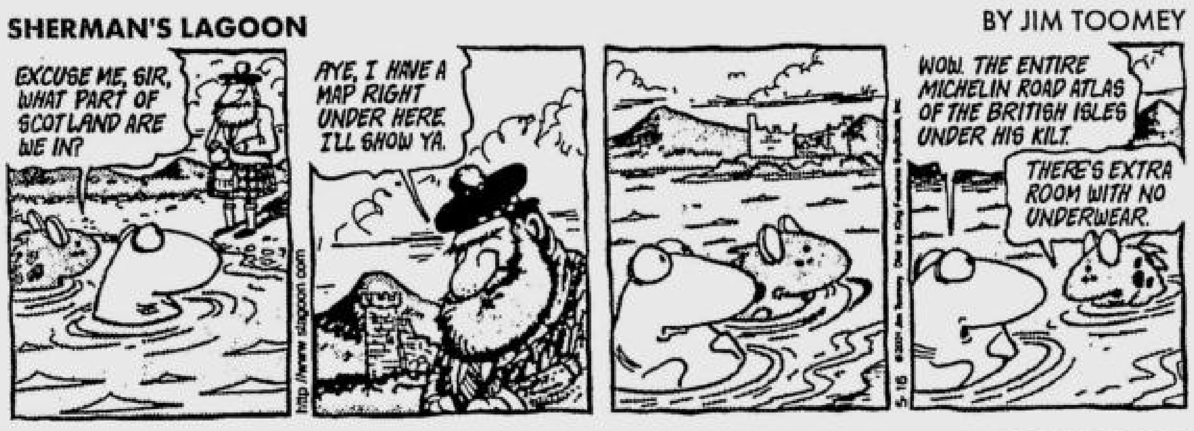
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SERYOSO KA BA NAMAN SA PANLI-LIGAW MO DITO SA KAPITBAHAY KO?
AY SIEMPRE SER...
MABUTI NAMAN.
PAG LOKOHAN LANG KASI 'YAN E AKO RIN ANG MAHIHIRAPAN.
MAHIHIRAPAN ... SER?
E SIEMPRE AKO ANG UUTUSAN NI MANG DASUL NA HUMANTING SA 'YO.
SA LAKI MO PA NAMANG 'YAN E MADALI KANG TAMAAN ...
PA!! HINA-HARASS NI IGNO 'YUNG BISITA KO!!
PMJR

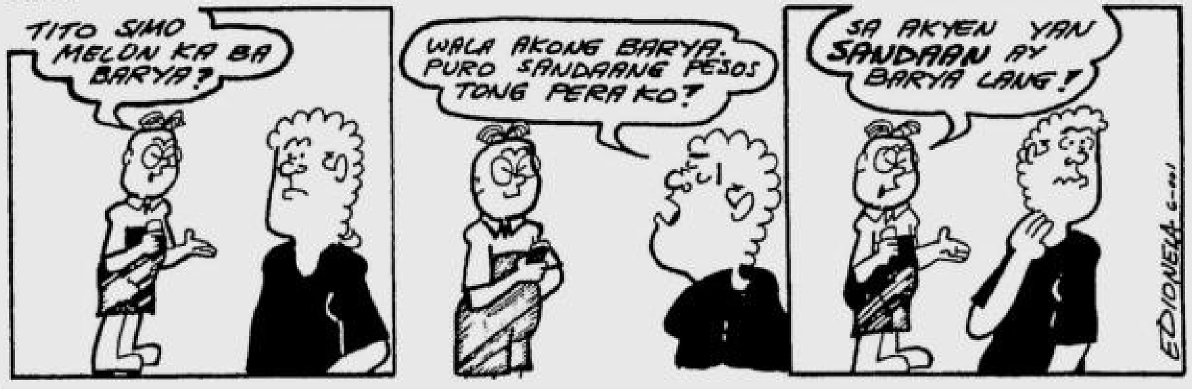
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


EXCUSE ME, SIR, WHAT PART OF SCOTLAND ARE WE IN?
AYE, I HAVE A MAP RIGHT UNDER HERE. I'LL SHOW YA.
WOW. THE ENTIRE MICHELIN ROAD ATLAS OF THE BRITISH ISLES UNDER HIS KILT.
THERE'S EXTRA ROOM WITH NO UNDERWEAR.
http://www.slagoon.com
5-16

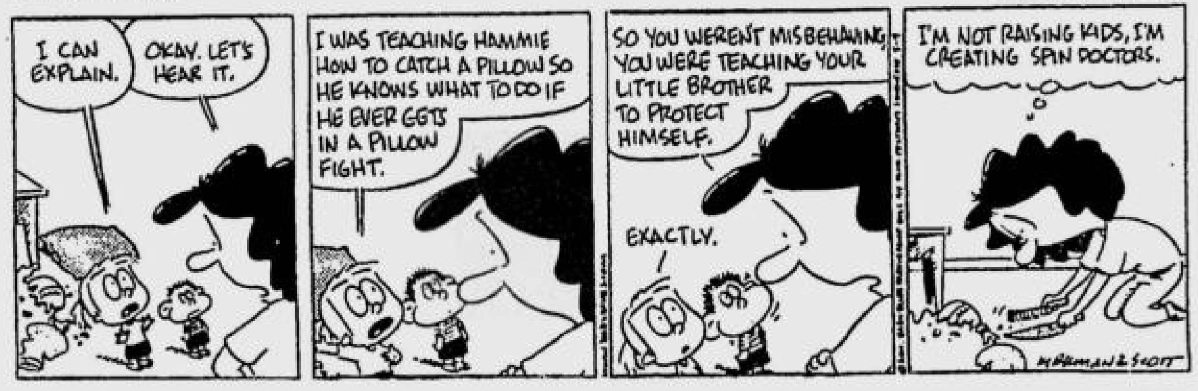
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


TITO SIMO MELON KA BA BARYA?
WALA AKONG BARYA. PURO SANDAANG PESOS TONG PERA KO?
SA AKYEN YAN SANDAAN AY BARYA LANG!
EDIONELA

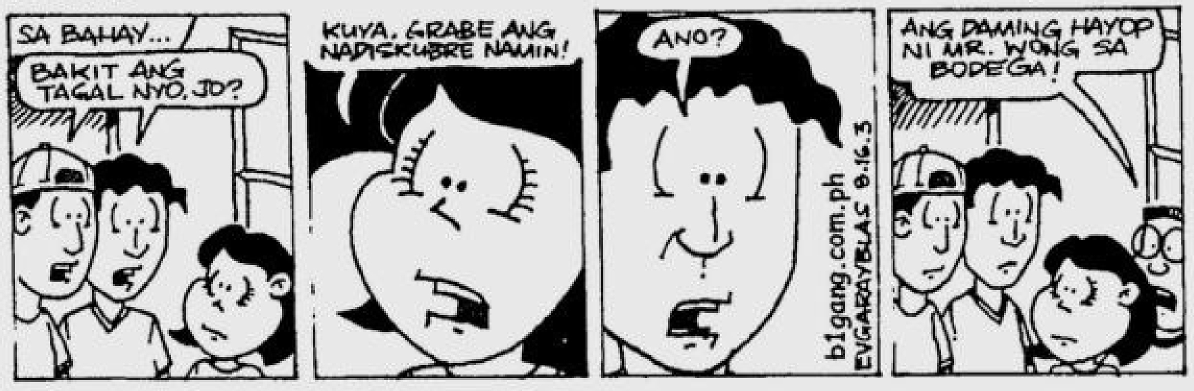
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I CAN EXPLAIN.
OKAY. LET'S HEAR IT.
I WAS TEACHING HAMMIE HOW TO CATCH A PILLOW SO HE KNOWS WHAT TO DO IF HE EVER GETS IN A PILLOW FIGHT.
SO YOU WEREN'T MISBEHAVING, YOU WERE TEACHING YOUR LITTLE BROTHER TO PROTECT HIMSELF.
EXACTLY.
I'M NOT RAISING KIDS, I'M CREATING SPIN DOCTORS.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SA BAHAY...
BAKIT ANG TAGAL NYO, JO?
KUYA, GRABE ANG NADISKUBRE NAMIN!
ANO?
ANG DAMING HAYOP NI MR. WONG SA BODEGA!
b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS 9.16.3

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: John Goodman, Nicole Kidman, Chet Atkins, John Mahoney, Anne Murray, Lionel Richie, Danny Aiello

Happy Birthday: You will need to delve into enjoyable projects in order to get the most mileage out of your talents and to help sustain your emotional well-being. Don't dwell on past mishaps; instead, move forward and you will find it much easier to deal with personal issues. Your numbers: 17, 29, 32, 37, 41, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Romantic encounters will develop if you go out with friends. You'll be in a talkative mood and charm those you meet. It will be a great day to get your point across.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take a drive around and look at some property that interests you. A residential move would be advantageous. Don't allow your emotions to stand in the way of making a necessary change.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your emotional outlook will be better if you are happy with yourself. Set some personal goals and go full tilt until they're achieved.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be careful while traveling. Don't let your emotions interfere with your work. You need to concentrate on important issues. Don't be tempted to get involved with someone who is married.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You need to feel satisfied by the work you do. Otherwise, you should join a drama group, dance classes or any other activity that promotes creative freedom.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Major alterations on the home front will have a lasting effect. You can get ahead professionally by doing a great job and not complaining.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will experience difficulties if you deal with foreigners. Become involved in activities that provide new information and skills. Your interests will lead to a higher position.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may feel sorry for the underdog, but that doesn't mean you should be giving up everything you've worked so hard to obtain. Don't be sucked in by sob stories.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let anyone limit your choices. State your case and let things unfold the way they are supposed to. You won't be happy if your freedom is curtailed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your demanding nature will confuse your partner. If you take him or her for granted, you may find yourself living alone again. Think twice before making any irreversible decisions.

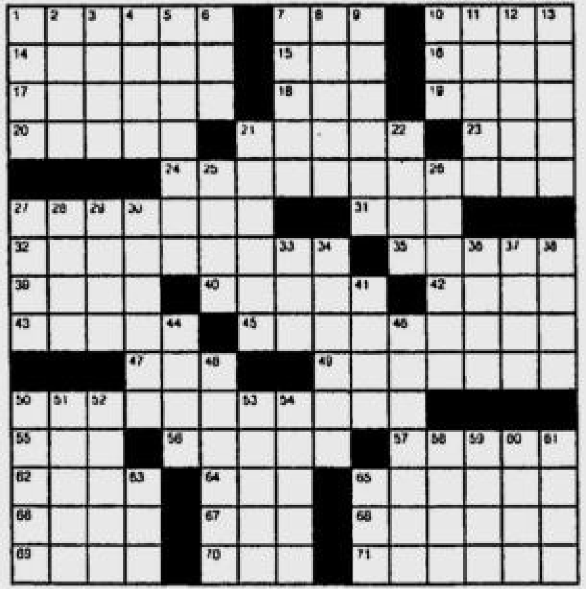
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Time spent with children will be informative. You may not like everything they say, but their criticism will be honest and accurate. You'll thank them after you make some alterations.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Trying to talk family members into doing something will be like pulling teeth. Don't worry about it; call up a friend and go anyway. They'll be sorry they missed it.

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, creative, ingenious and ready to take on anyone or anything that stands in your way. You are competitive, caring and clever at finding solutions to any problems.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
5/4/01

ACROSS
1 Slackens
7 Apple seed
10 On the bounding main
14 Tags
15 Tic-tac-toe win
16 Large assembly area
17 Start of Jerry Seinfeld quote
18 Hostelry
19 Mobile leader?
20 Rome's port
21 Stein's Toklas
23 Ho of Hawaii
24 Part 2 of the quote
27 Captivates
31 Of course, Pierre
32 Women no longer wed
35 Puerile
39 Author Bagnold
40 Part 3 of the quote
42 Well-behaved
43 2000 candidate Ralph
45 Trended upward
47 Dig a trench
49 In error
50 Part 4 of the quote
55 Simian
56 More tender
57 Exploding stars
62 Provo's state
64 Sty
65 End of the quote
66 French resort city
67 Brookner novel, "Hotel du __"
68 Mandarin, e.g.
69 Suffering dull pains
70 Just get by
71 Secondary street

DOWN
1 Choir part
2 Expressions of contempt
3 Fence the loot
4 A Garr
5 Beatles' Rigby
6 Former draft org.
7 French soldier in WWI
8 Order of Greek architecture
9 Cisco's sidekick
10 Exclamation of discovery
11 Mecca resident
12 Singer John
13 As company
21 Set a tax on
22 Needle case
25 Killer whale
26 Door holders
27 Utopia
28 Santa Maria's sister ship
29 Eager
30 Unassuming
33 Newt
34 Supplicate
36 First-rate
37 Carol
38 Countercurrent
41 "Hud" Oscar winner
44 College cheers
46 Unlimited
48 Human beings
50 Animals of a region
51 Of vision
52 Stick 'em up!
53 __ havoc
54 From this moment on
58 "Lawrence of Arabia" co-star Sharif
59 In __ veritas
60 Seaweed
61 Checked out
63 Attention getter
65 Chain on a pocket watch

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	P	R	E	S	■	C	E	L	L	■	G	R	I	P
N	O	I	S	E	■	A	R	E	A	■	R	I	D	E
T	O	P	S	Y	T	U	R	V	Y	■	A	G	E	E
S	H	E	■	M	A	S	S	■	W	I	T	H	A	L
■	■	■	P	O	S	E	■	M	O	T	E	T	■	■
H	E	L	I	U	M	■	S	O	M	E	R	S	E	T
B	L	E	A	R	■	H	A	R	E	M	■	T	A	I
O	R	F	F	■	L	E	T	O	N	■	C	U	S	P
M	O	T	■	S	O	R	E	N	■	C	A	F	E	S
B	Y	H	A	L	V	E	S	■	G	A	D	F	L	Y
■	■	A	L	O	E	S	■	H	O	R	S	■	■	■
G	A	N	D	E	R	■	S	A	G	A	■	R	O	M
O	R	D	O	■	B	O	T	T	O	M	L	I	N	E
L	I	E	U	■	O	B	O	E	■	E	A	S	E	S
D	A	D	S	■	Y	I	P	S	■	L	O	E	S	S

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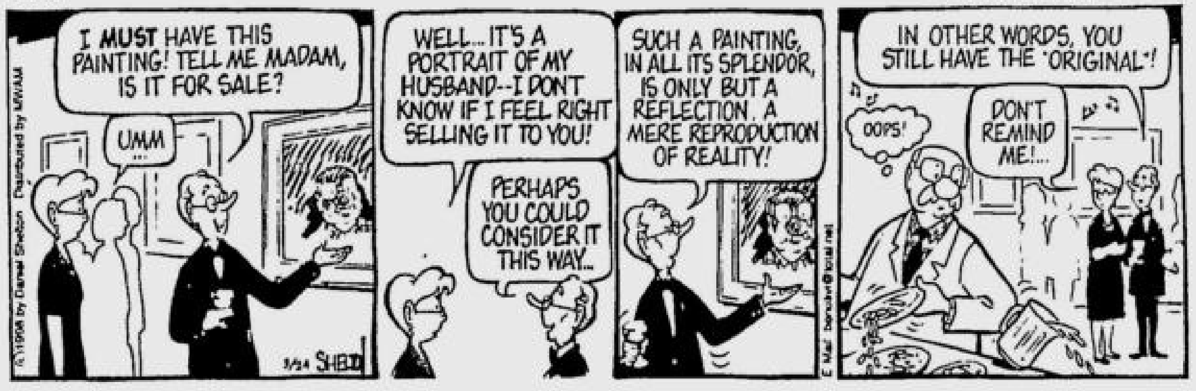
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I MUST HAVE THIS PAINTING! TELL ME MADAM, IS IT FOR SALE?
UMM ...
WELL... IT'S A PORTRAIT OF MY HUSBAND--I DON'T KNOW IF I FEEL RIGHT SELLING IT TO YOU!
PERHAPS YOU COULD CONSIDER IT THIS WAY...
SUCH A PAINTING, IN ALL ITS SPLENDOR, IS ONLY BUT A REFLECTION. A MERE REPRODUCTION OF REALITY!
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU STILL HAVE THE 'ORIGINAL'!
OOPS!
DON'T REMIND ME!...
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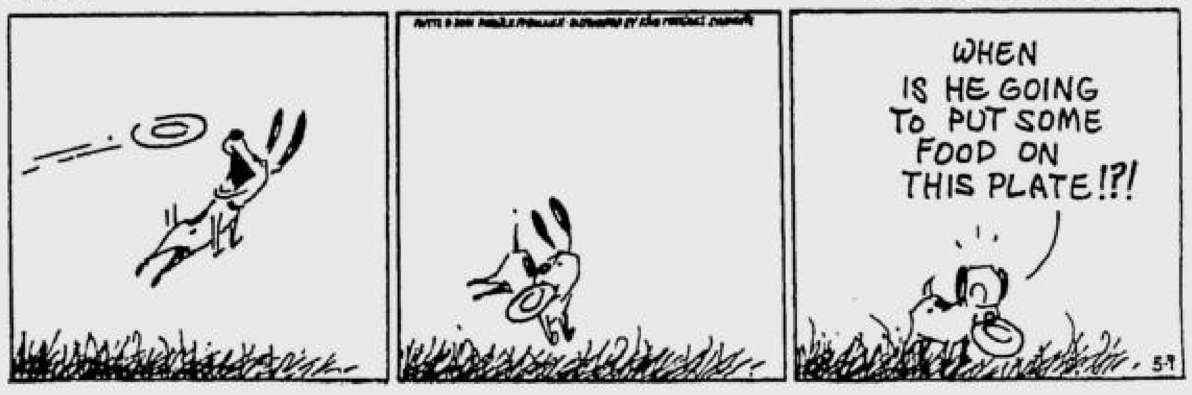
SHELTON

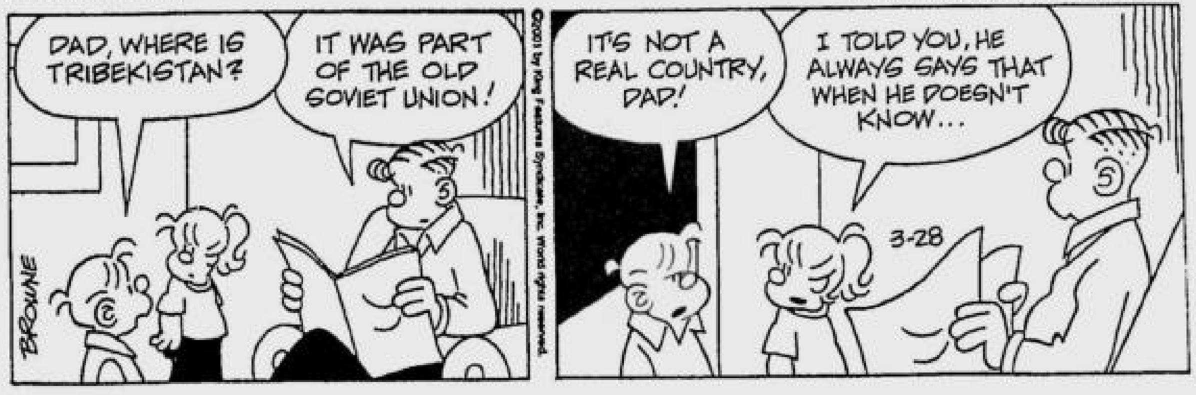
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHEN IS HE GOING TO PUT SOME FOOD ON THIS PLATE!?!
5-9

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


DAD, WHERE IS TRIBEKISTAN?
IT WAS PART OF THE OLD SOVIET UNION!
IT'S NOT A REAL COUNTRY, DAD!
I TOLD YOU, HE ALWAYS SAYS THAT WHEN HE DOESN'T KNOW...
3-28
BROWNE
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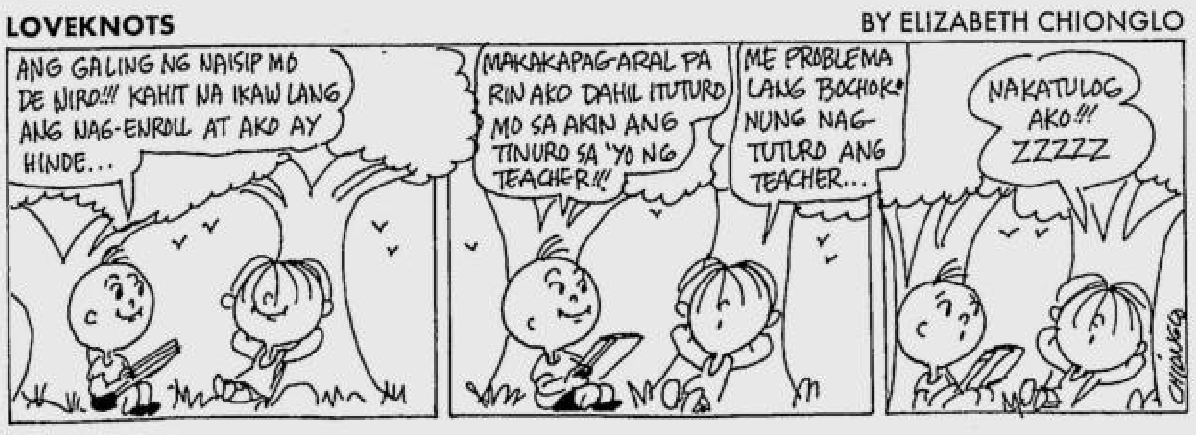
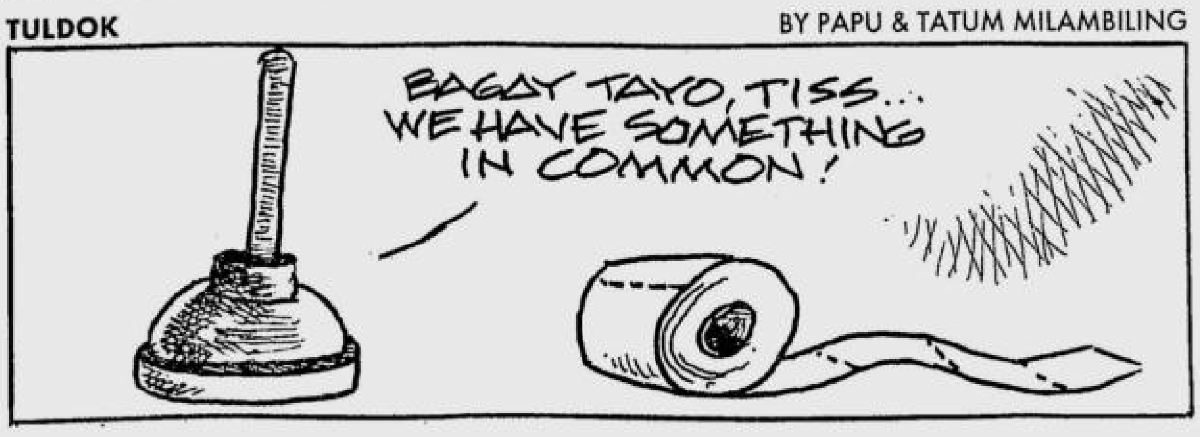
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

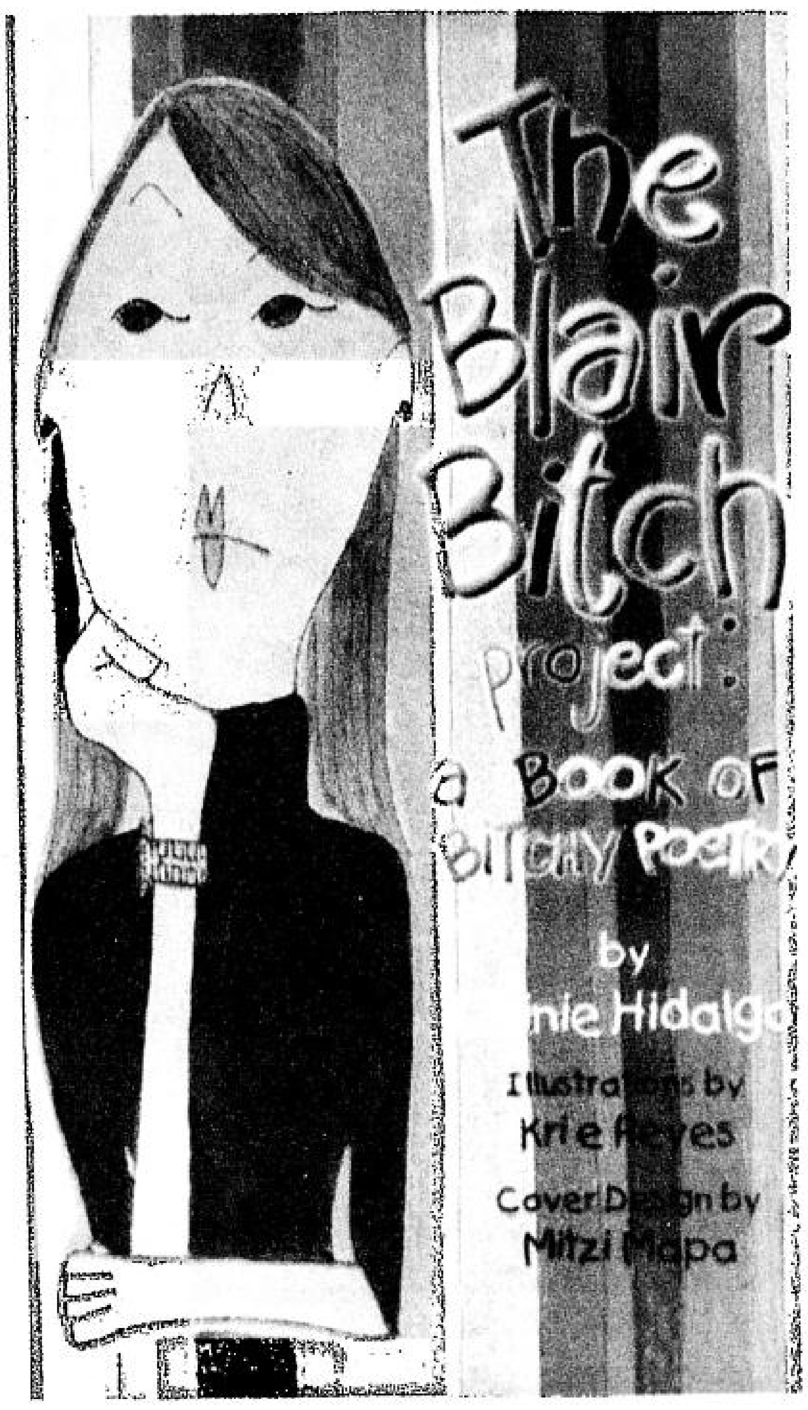

ANG GALING NG NAISIP MO DE NIRO!!! KAHIT NA IKAW LANG ANG NAG-ENROLL AT AKO AY HINDE...
MAKAKAPAG-ARAL PA RIN AKO DAHIL ITUTURO MO SA AKIN ANG TINURO SA 'YO NG TEACHER!!!
ME PROBLEMA LANG BOCHOK! NUNG NAG-TUTURO ANG TEACHER...
NAKATULOG AKO!!! ZZZZZ
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


BAGAY TAYO, TISS... WE HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON!

The bitch poetry project



By Melissa Lim

ADMIT it. You've noticed the girl with pink braces, mascara-filled lashes, red (not pink) cheeks and spiked hair because she reminds you of an electrocuted cartoon character. Maybe that is a bit exaggerated, but I'm pretty sure you know what I mean. Fact is, people easily notice other people. Sometimes we appreciate the nice things about them and ignore the awful. Sometimes, though, it just gets too funny to ignore.

This book has taken such matter into its own hands by printing nasty little thoughts that most of us would never dare say out loud. With titles such as "Would You Please Pop that Zit???," "You'll Never Get a Girl If You Kiss Like That" and "Excuse Me, You're Frothing," it's indeed an interesting read right from the first page. My favorite is, "Where exactly did you learn your English?"

I was in a car with friends when I had a sneak peak of the book. And believe me when I say that I couldn't put it down. My poor chums had to endure a 30-minute drive listening to my poetry reading, giggling hysterically every now and then. They kept giving me the "you're-weird-and-you-need-help" look, because probably I wasn't really making much sense.

But my only complaint is it had taken me forever to find a copy of this book, which is not even my own! I had been to every single Humor Post branch within the Ortigas-Makati area which has ran out of stock. I also checked Powerbooks, National Bookstore, Goodwill and PageOne. Powerbooks was still ordering copies, while the rest had absolutely no clue what I was talking about. The most horrible part was spelling it out to salesladies because they keep hearing "Blair Witch." Imagine telling them slowly "b-i-t-c-h." One of them actually thought I was cussing her.

It's a good, easy read, and a good laugh, too, so long as you don't take it too seriously. I'm sure all of us could use a little no-brainer fun every now and then. It's worth every single peso I haven't had the opportunity to spend. If you happen to finally see the book in stores, poke me or something. Smoke signals would do just fine.

Three opera artists featured in Lawasia concert

LAWASIA will hold a "Trio Concerto," featuring the current rage of Manila's opera crowd, soprano Rachelle Gerodias, together with the highly acclaimed lyric tenor Edgardo Crisol, and brilliant baritone Lionel Guico on June 22, 7:30 p.m., at Skytop, Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. The event will welcome the foreign delegates to Lawasia's Legal Aid Workshop.

Lawasia is an association of lawyers, law firms, bar associations and jurists in the Asia Pacific region. It is headed by Mervyn G. Encanto, PNB executive vice president and former national president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

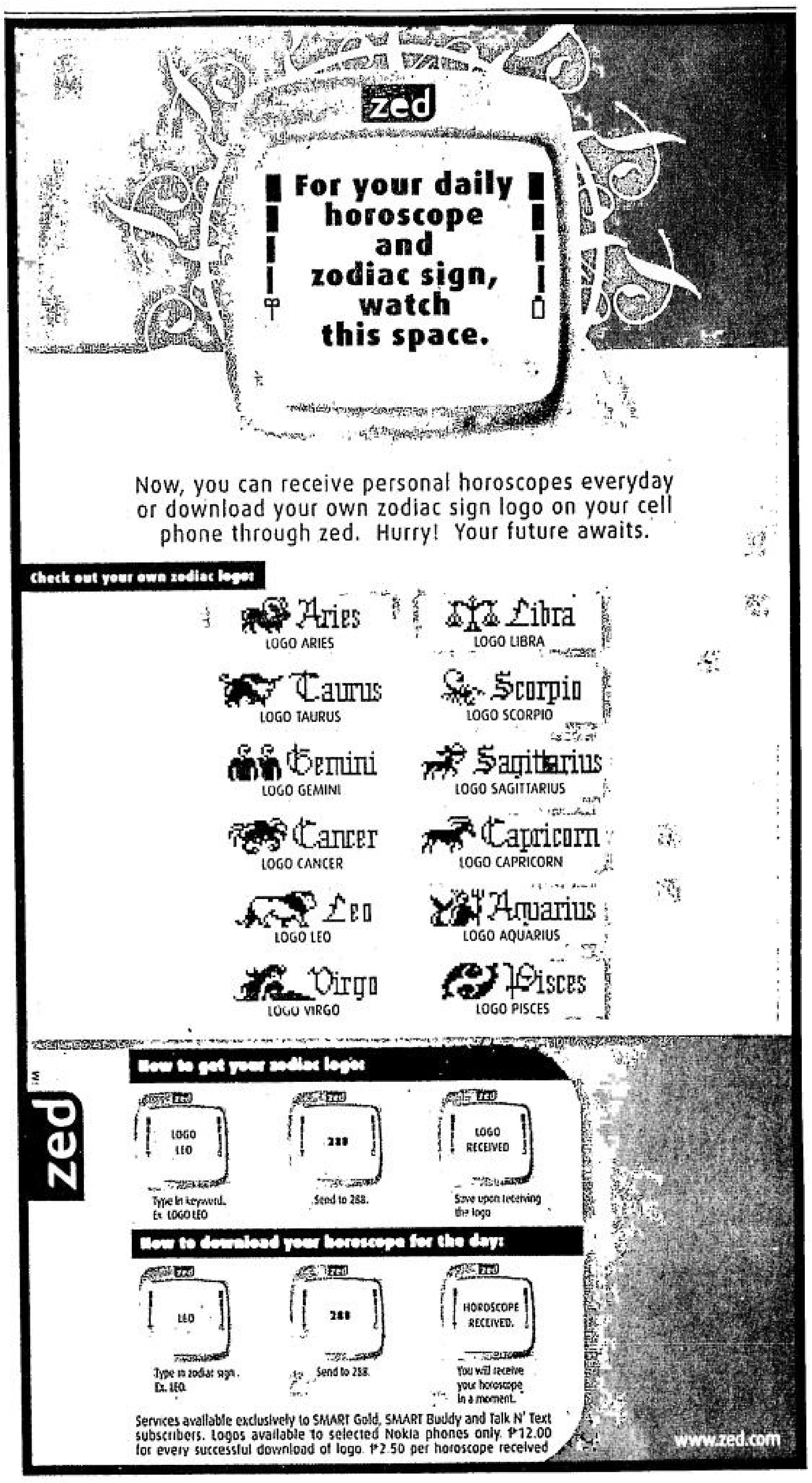
Gerodias was a scholar of the Eastman School of Music in Rochester New York where she obtained a Master of Music Degree in Voice Performance and Literature. She won first prize in a Vocal Competition in Syracuse and reached the grand finals of the Merola voice competition in San Francisco. She is a scholar and resident artist of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. Crisol was one of the six semifinalists (out of 300) in Puccini's Madame Butterfly Competition held in Tokyo in 1986.

He was under the tutelage of British Maestro Vernon Mackie and won international acclaim as Alfredo in "La Traviata" at the World Mum Festival in Krasnoyarsk, Russia. Guico is a very promising brilliant baritone. He has participated in international concert tours in Europe, United States and Canada. He was a bass soloist in Giacomo Rossini's Messe Solennelle held in Belgium. He is currently a voice instructor at the UP College of Music.

The trio will sing selections from "Carmen," "La Boheme," "La Traviata," "Don Giovanni" and a lawyer's song from Johann Strauss' "Die Fliedermaus." These will be capped by songs from Schönberg's "Les Miserables" and Bernstein's "West Side Story."

The concert is produced by Musika Klasika Filipino, a foundation which aims to popularize classical music at the grass roots level and eradicate the notion that classical music is only for society's intellectuals and upper class. Toward this end the foundation undertakes the Filipino translation of opera classics and musical theater to make it understandable to the common man and seeks to create original Filipino opera classics. It has in its repertoire a vast collection of Filipino musical, art forms, like *kundimans*, *zarzuelas* and folk songs, as well as music from the different countries of the world.

HOROSCOPE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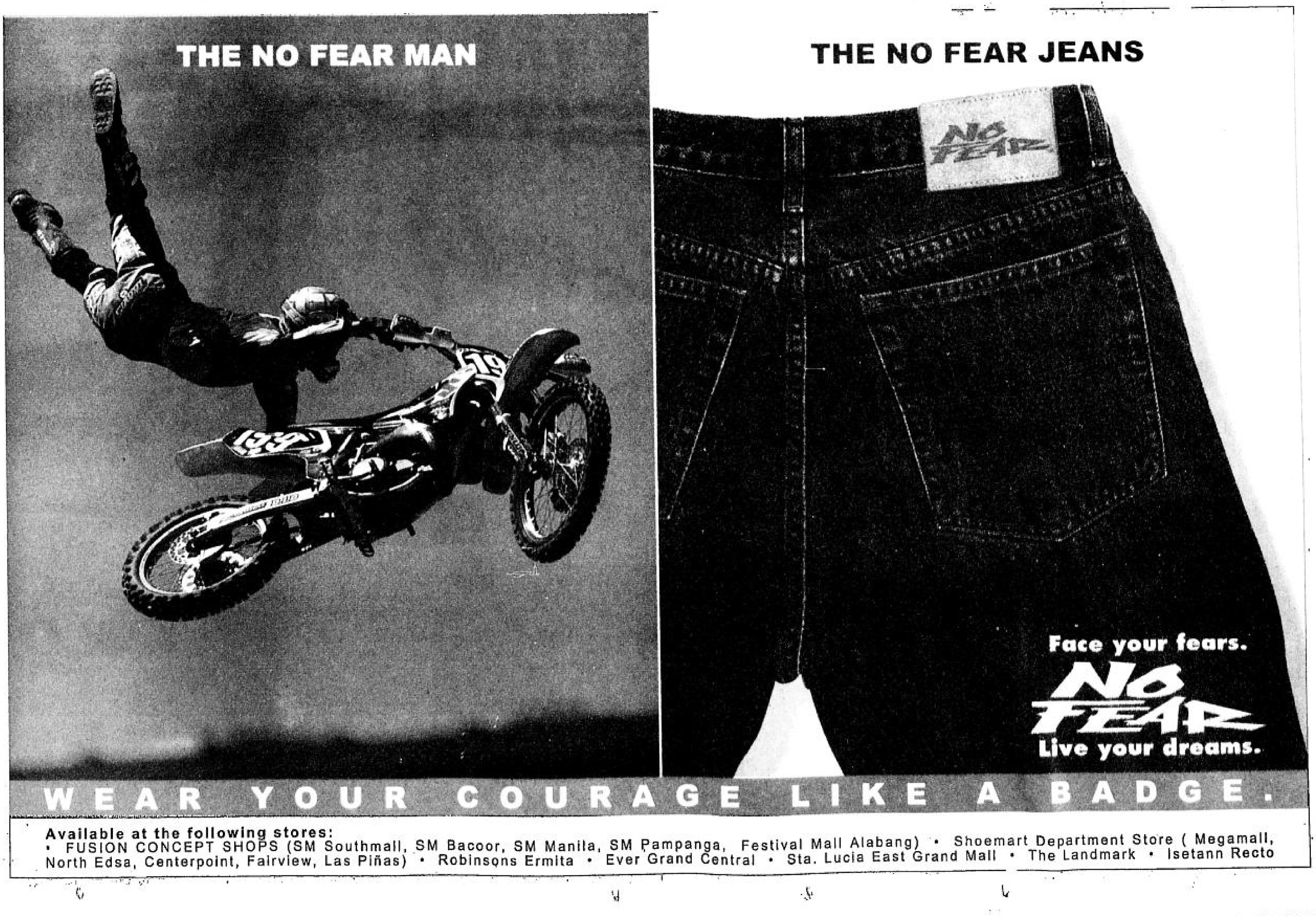
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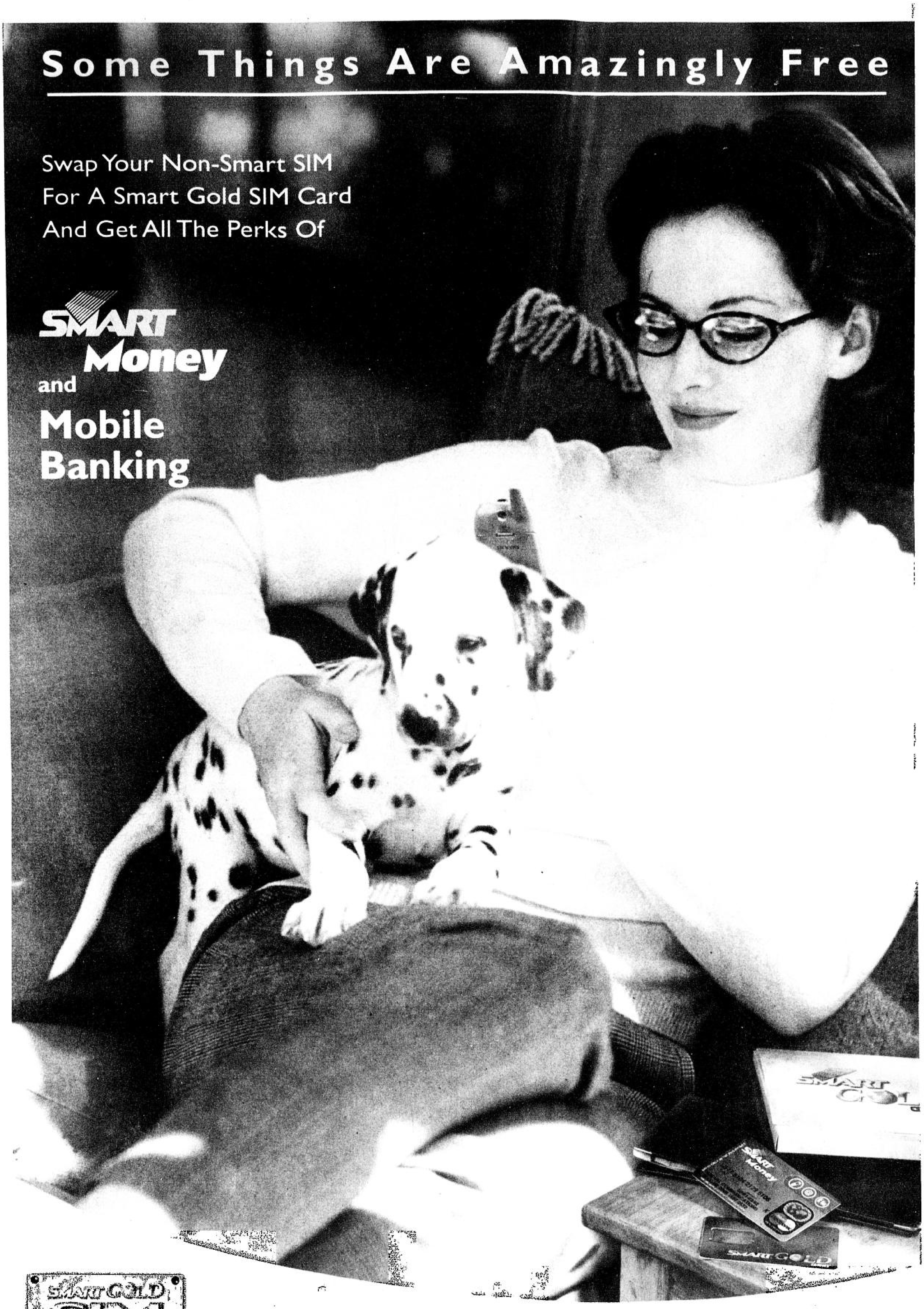

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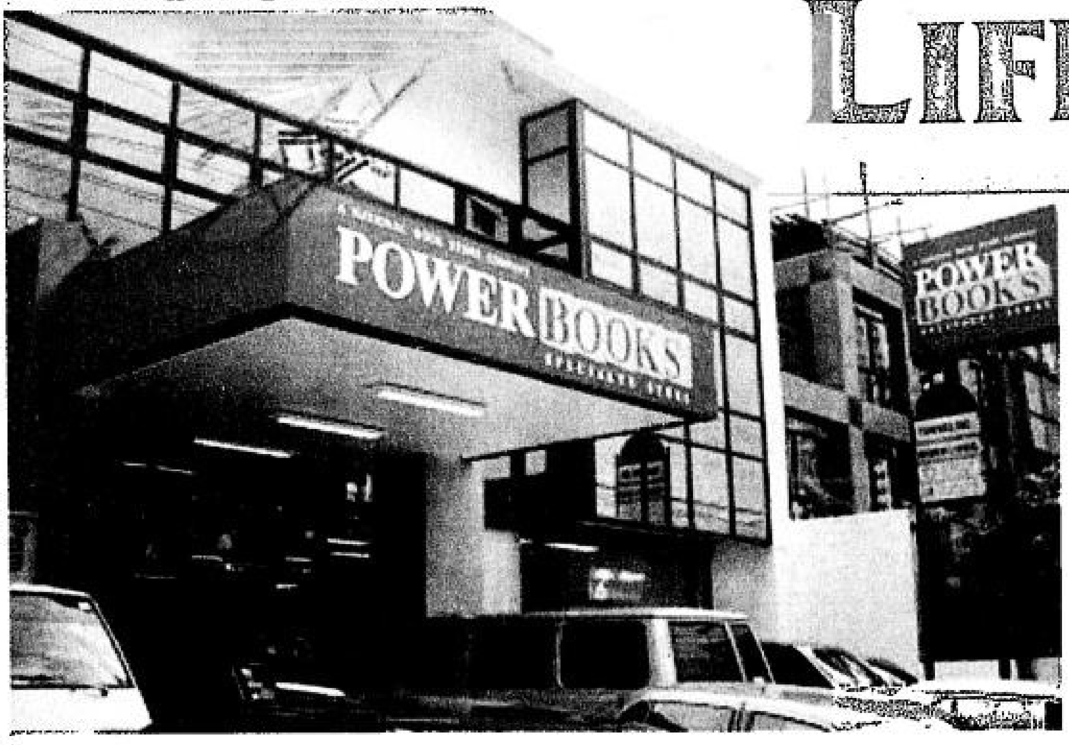

Now, it's not just about the books in the shelves—it's also about cushioned seats, good lighting, soothing music, coffee shops, discount cards and even clean toilets

Battle of the bookstores

By Catherine Young and Tammy David
2bU! Correspondents

WITH THE CYBER revolution, it's becoming increasingly rare to meet a kid who actually reads books without being instructed by the teachers, or who knows Tom Sawyer better than Lara Croft. But that doesn't stop bookstore owners from putting up shops all over the mall district, particularly in Makati, where you can find six different bookstores with just a jeep ride away.

Now, it's not just about the books in the shelves—it's also about cushioned seats, good lighting, soothing music, coffee breweries, discount cards and even clean toilets. Two weeks ago, 2bU! sent us to go on a book safari in Makati to find how these bookstores measure up.

Here is our scoreboard in the Battle of the

BATTLE/ p.D2

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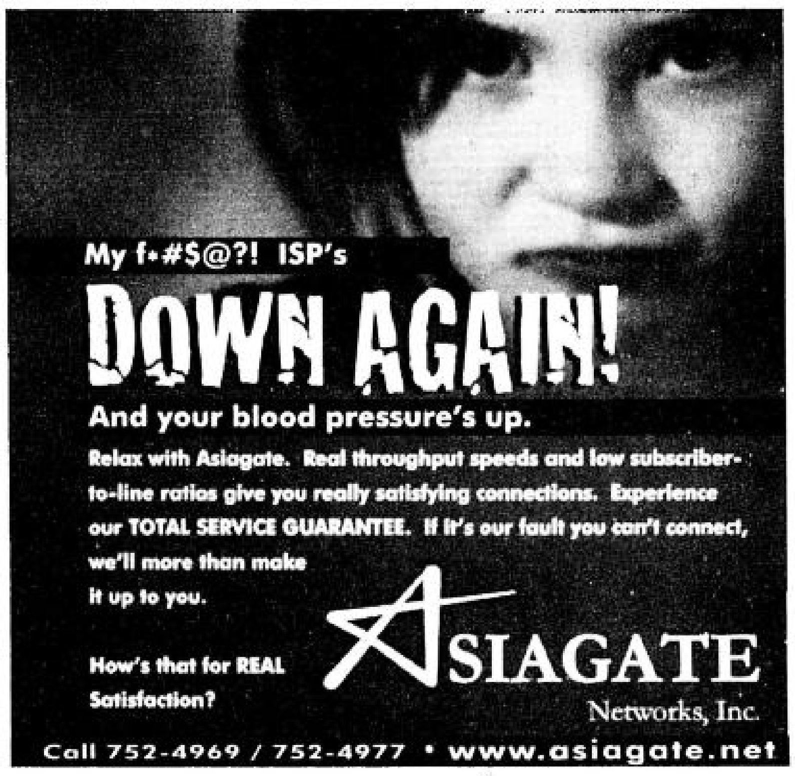
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There once was a boy named Christopher whose biggest dream was to see a real rocketship that had travelled through space. "One day," he said aloud, "I will visit the land where rocketships are built and sit in the same cockpit where astronauts flew." What Christopher didn't know was that his Mom heard his wish. So she bought a special Lamp that could help parents fulfill their children's wishes. With this, she started saving up for her son's best birthday gift ever. In five short years, on his 12th birthday, Christopher found himself in a real space center in Florida. His eyes were wide open and his breath was on hold when he walked inside a real space shuttle for the first time. With his mom by his side, Christopher whispered to her, "You are the best Mommy in the world!"

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Battle of the bookstores

(From page D1)

Bookstores:

Page One

Power Plant Mall, Rockwell

Cathy: Since I rarely go to Makati, it has always been a treat for me to visit what is considered by many as the book haven of Manila. Page One has a wonderful customer-friendly atmosphere—spacious aisles in between the shelves, lighting that is perfect for reading, and organized merchandise. The greatest thing about it, however, is the hard-to-find books.

I have long wanted to get a copy of "The A-Z of Creative Photography" by Lee Frost, a guide to amateur photographers recommended to me by our workshop director. Since it was not available in the other bookstores, I checked out Page One. Miraculously, the rogue book is available there—a lone copy, and sealed, too.

However, if there's one thing that's objectionable about Page One, it's the price. What is only P999 in PowerBooks or National Bookstore is a whopping P1,250 in Page One.

So, was I willing to shell out P251 more for a book? Well, Tammy and I decided to check out the other bookstores first and see if they have it. In the meantime, I snagged one of the remaining copies of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings," an unabridged, 3-in-1 version published by Harper Collins. Two hours later, when we went back, the other copies were gone (man, those salespeople work fast.).

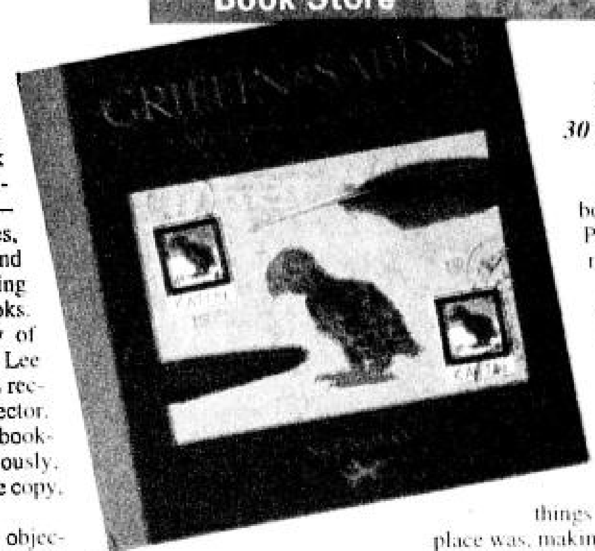
Oh, I bought the photography book.

Tammy: Page One is at the top of my list... that is, if I have extra cash. Even though I've been there about a hundred times, I still don't get tired because they have so many books that I've never seen before. The arrangement of the shelves is less confusing (that explains why they have minimal staff) and the place is clean and most of the books are fresh and sealed. It was in Page One that I was able to find books by Nick Hornby, particularly "High Fidelity," and the British version (Bloomsbury) of "Harry Potter."

They have a wide selection of music-related titles like the biography of Radiohead and they also have cool stuff like planners, calendars and maps for kids. They also have a wide selection of audiotapes and coffee-table books in art, photography and architecture (actually half of the place is dedicated to the three).

But my books for the day were David LaChapelle's book and "The Alchemist," which I haven't read yet and people keep on bugging me to read. The Page One price for "The Alchemist" is P560 (better quality and printed in Glasgow), compared to Powerbooks/National, where it is P519.

Rating: ☺☺☺☺



THE GOLDEN MEAN

SABINE'S NOTEBOOK

National Bookstore

30 branches in Metro Manila and 12 in the provinces

Cathy: Next stop was NBS, a bookstore chain that has been in the Philippines for as long as anybody my age can remember.

What's great about National is that they have many branches, so when you want to get a book that's only available in some far-away branch, you can always call and they'll deliver it to the store nearest you.

It was my first time to visit NBS Makati. One of the first things we noticed was how cramped the place was, making it difficult for one to browse. With people rushing to buy school supplies at the last minute, it became harder to walk through the store.

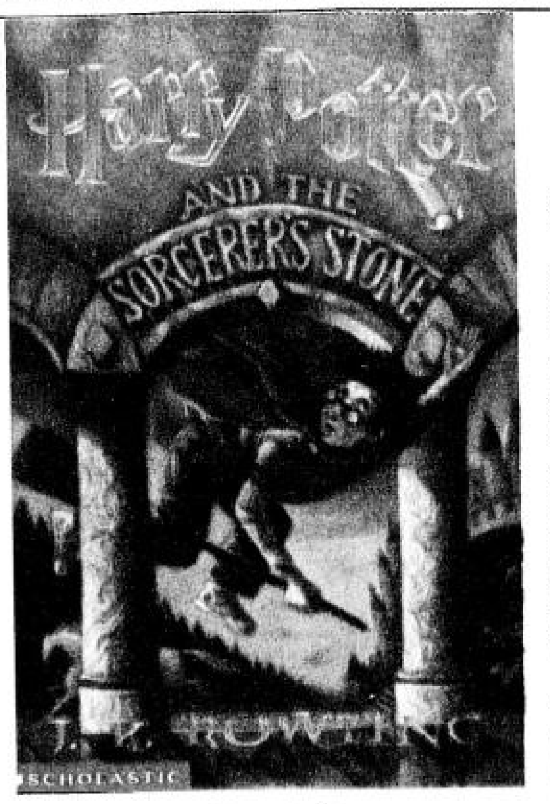
Regardless of the space, however, NBS is still reliable. One can easily find a wide selection of dictionaries, textbooks, school supplies, magazines and, of course, books from different genres. They have good prices, too, although we didn't find a complete set of the "Left Behind" series, and some of their stocks were pretty old and tattered. And for Tolkien fans, "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy are available separately.

Tammy: Like almost everybody else, *laking* National *ako*. It was at "Natio" where I bought my first "Sweet Valley Kids" (*baduy*, but, hey, everybody went through that) and it was in Natio where I bought almost all of my school books and school supplies. Who can forget the dove and the red stripes on the *supot*? I guess the corny elementary joke "What is the national store? *Eh di* National Bookstore" is true with branches all over the country, and they still have a record bar and a wide variety of magazines and Filipiniana books.

Most of their books are cheap compared to other bookstores. They have personnel all over the place who are however sometimes not that friendly and helpful. Nowadays it's cramped and sometimes the books are scattered on the floor. I remember I bought a dog-eared copy of "The Butcher Boy." "*Yan na lang po*," the salesladies said.

But Natio is Natio. We love them and in return they give us Laking National cards and sometimes funny promos.

Rating: ☺☺☺☺½



Goodwill

Cathy: Every time I go to Goodwill, they always seem to have a sale. Or maybe that's just because some of their books are cheaper than the ones sold in other stores. But anyway, on my visit, a lot of bestsellers (such as "Harry Potter" and "Chicken Soup for the Soul) were being sold at 20-percent off.

Strange thing is that Goodwill's price of "Harry Potter" books is higher than NBS or PowerBooks. And there are other books that are a bit more expensive. Arthur Golden's "Memoirs of a Geisha," for example, is sold at Goodwill for P324.75, while NBS and PowerBooks sell it at P319. A lot of books are in sealed copies, though, so if you're OC about your reading material, it's a good place to buy.

One thing that makes Goodwill stand out is the wide selection of the classics in different versions and by different publishers. For instance, we saw Wilkie Collins' "The Moonstone," a classic mystery novel that I can't find anywhere else. Anyway, it's definitely the store I'd recommend if you're carrying your English teacher's book list.

However, it's not the greatest place to browse. Aside from the fact that there's no music and the lights are really gloomy, it's extremely confusing to find books because the signs are too high.

Tammy: I admit I'm not really a fan of Goodwill. It doesn't have many branches and it's a somewhat gloomy place. I have noticed that at Goodwill, they don't play music much. It's always my last stop whenever I have to find a book for school. But most of the books are cheaper than in other bookstores and you can find some of the former bestsellers there selling at a fair price. Well, maybe because they're late in releasing new books sometimes. But Goodwill bursts with stock during the annual bookfair at SM Megamall.

The only thing I buy in Goodwill are classics and magazines, though.

Ultimately, Goodwill has very good prices but not so good presentation.

Rating: ☺☺½

PowerBooks

Cathy: Of all the bookstores, PowerBooks ranks the highest in terms of atmosphere, music, lighting and even entertainment. Not only does it have an escalator and restrooms and a chair at the end of every shelf on the second floor; it also has The Garden Café, where you can read books and have lunch.

During our visit, there were more people on the second floor. It turned out that about a quarter of the room had been made into a makeshift viewing room for an animé film showing.

Although PowerBooks doesn't have all book titles, it has a lot of interesting materials. Where else can one find the "Crystal Healing Gift Set" or "The Adventures of Tintin" comic book?

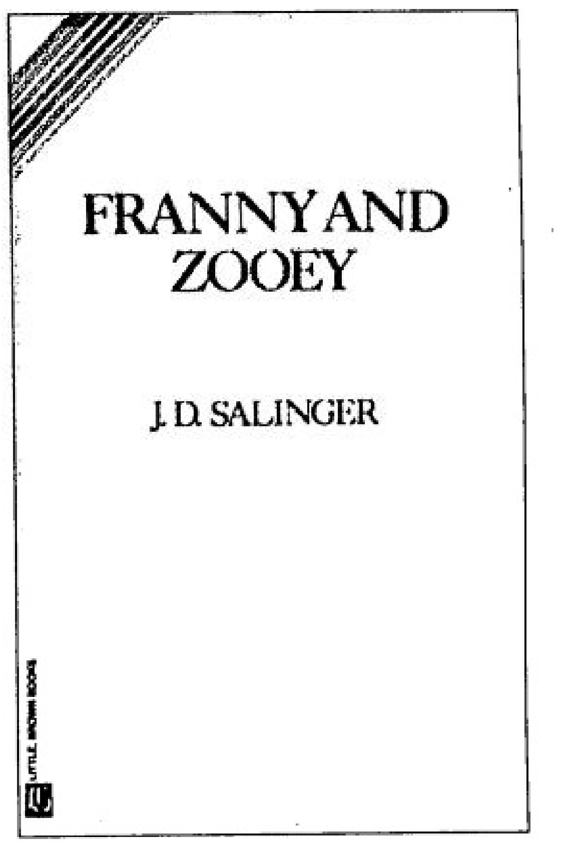
Tammy: PowerBooks is one of the pioneers in specialty and "browse all you can without that saleslady tapping your shoulder" bookstores. I always feel at home whenever I'm in PowerBooks Makati no matter how many times they have renovated. Since they have the same price (and owner, I think) as National Bookstore, I go there whenever I want to buy a book instead of going to NBS in the mall, braving the shoppers and waiting in line.

Since there are already a lot of PowerBooks fans, they have loyalty cards and discount cards. But, of course, they lack some materials sometimes such as "The Lord of the Rings" (see, Cathy, *buti na lang* you bought *kanina*!). But they also have the complete "Harry Potter" series and merchandise and "Griffin and Sabine." The Makati branch has a parking problem, though, especially on weekends.

But I appreciate the fact that I don't have to leave the store to use the toilet. I also don't have to sit on the floor or lean on the shelves since they have chairs everywhere.

Rating: ☺☺☺☺½

At the end of the day, we were already sick of the sight of a roomfull of books. Our wallets were empty, too. We concluded that there is no perfect bookstore to satisfy all of book buyers' needs in terms of atmosphere, availability and, of course, price. Ultimately, it's not about the bookstore; it's about the book.



Book lovers' guide to bargain-hunting

By Melissa Anne Telan
2bU! Correspondent

SO, you're hooked on books. You devour every scrap and morsel you can get your hands on, but it's not enough to keep you still.

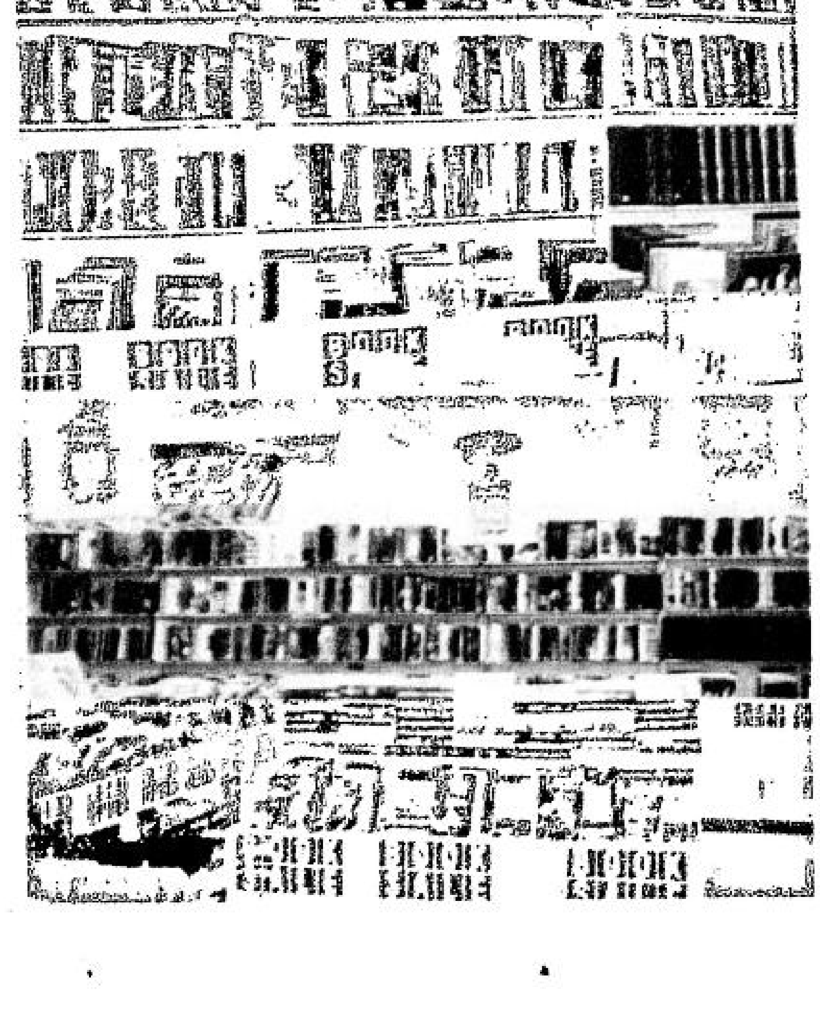
It's exasperating how you constantly find yourself itching to buy another paperback right after you finish one because those ghastly prices at local bookstores simply stop you dead on your tracks. You're near bankrupt. You've spent the remainder of your Christmas money on that P800 "Harry Potter" book and now you're saving your measly allowance for the new Amy Tan novel you absolutely must have. Too bad. You're broke, frustrated and fidgeting to curl up with another good read. You lament and ask: What's a book lover to do?

Why not try bargain book shopping? Bargain book hunting is an art on its own. Bookworms and bibliophiles alike have skillfully mastered this task out of the need to satisfy their insatiable appetite for books while, at the same time, keeping their piggy banks intact.

With the peso on the slump, continuous purchase of foreign-published books could easily drain one's resources. Aside from avoiding exorbitant expenses, book hunting appeals to one's sense of adventure and shrewdness. There's that unexplained joy and feeling of pride once you stumble on a book you've sought after for so long without having to shell out so much money. The thrill of discovering new bargain book treasure troves can be so utterly invigorating that it sometimes becomes an addiction.

But before you get excited, let me remind you that bargain books are usually secondhand. Those queasy over the thought of owning musty-smelling softbounds and wornout-looking paperbacks should get over the notion that crisp, out-of-the-printer books are the only way to go. Books are books. Sure it's great to buy brand new every so often, especially if you have the funds, but you're missing a big bundle by passing up the chance to go secondhand. While good reads are not cheap, cheap reads can surprisingly be very good.

To all you, book lovers, 2bU! guides you around town for a peek at the best places to shop for books, the bargain book hunter's way:.



'Segunda mano'

For a crash course on bargain book hunting, *segunda mano* or bookstores that sell used books is the ideal first stop for neophyte hunters. Locating one is not tough since it's found nearly everywhere—popular malls, shopping centers, supermarkets and even in obscure and unexpected areas like Quiapo and Baguio.

Such bookstores are a book lover's gold mine. Crammed in a few square meters are literally hundreds of titles of every genre and price range. But to truly maximize what these stores have to offer, one must remember that patience is a virtue. Good books don't walk up to you and wave, "Psst, over here!" But really, the search is part of its charm. Here's a review of one:

Book Sale: Surely you know about Book Sale. With numerous branches scattered not only across Metro Manila but all throughout the country, you may have stumbled upon one. But what's truly great about it is that it offers such excellent variety of books to keep any bookworm bustling happily for hours.

Books are separated and classified according to condition, genre (romance, children's lit, bestsellers) and binding (softbound and hardcover). Magazines and comics are also found on certain bins. Spotted lately were Madeleine L'Engle's "A Wrinkle in Time" (P10), Amy Tan's "Joy Luck Club" (P25), Anne Rice's "Interview with the Vampire" (P105), Terry Brooks' "Sword of the Shannara" series (P90), Stephen King novels (P30-P130) and "Chicken Soup for the Soul" first serving in hardcover (in very good condition at P350). Classics are pegged at P40, almost-new bestsellers at P80 and slightly tattered books in cheap bins, although all pages are still intact, as low as P5.

Each Book Sale outlet, like a fingerprint, is unique. No two stores offer the same assortment although veteran book hunters would swear that the best branches are those located in places people don't frequent much (so you dodge all the competition!). Check out branches at Virra Mall, Edsa Central, Quiapo and inside Cherry Foodarama in Mandaluyong for the best buys.

Other bookstores to watch out for: Eighty-eight Bookstore, Diplomat and Merriam-Webster.

Recto

Recto is the original "book lover's haven." This strip has long been famous as a place to purchase all kinds of cheap, *segunda mano* books. Ideally situated near the university belt, this is the best site to buy textbooks for the tight-budgeted student. Recto is also a mecca for hard-to-find or out-of-print locally published books that you probably won't see at most used-books stores. Not just a place to get books, you can also sell your old books here when in need of extra cash or just feel like cleaning out your shelves and drawer. Just remember that prices are not yet final since haggling here is the norm.

Book swaps

If you feel like ridding old books collecting dust in your shelves while getting new ones to fill it up again, then keep your eyes glued on the dailies for announcements of book swaps.

A must-go is the semi-annual Filipinas Heritage Library book swap. Books are appraised and given points by the FHL Book Swap Staff, with 20 points being the highest value for one book.

Book owners are given coupons based on the number of points their books receive. For instance, if you surrender books equaling 50 points, then you will be given coupons worth the same amount in return. You can use these coupons to "purchase" books at the swap.

Seen at the recent swap meet were Erich Segal's "Love Story" (6 points), Jessica Zafra's "The Twisted Menace" (3 points), Jackie Collins' bestsellers (1 point each), John Grisham paperbacks (3 points), Judith McNaught novels (6-18 points) and Alex Garland's "The Tesseract" (10 points). Back issues of fashion magazines merit half a point each.

Trust me, it's impossible not to come out grinning from the book swap. For the best book deals, get there as soon as the swap begins. Watch out for the next FHL book swap before the year ends.

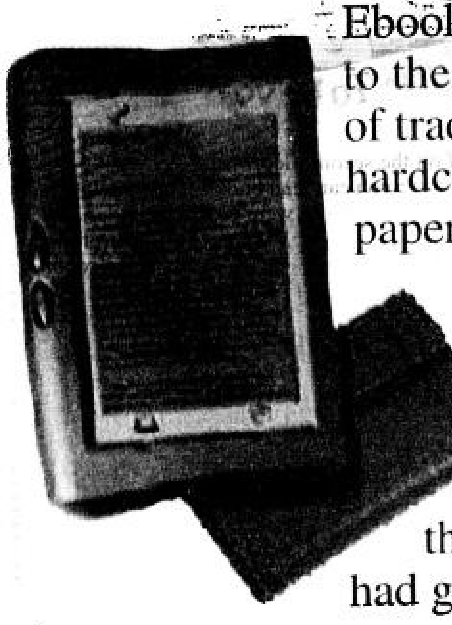
Online auction sites

The World Wide Web brings you closer to amazing book bargains. Local online auction sites give book buyers a direct contact with original book owners. Registering as a member is free and easy.

The best thing about online auction sites is the availability of recently published or still popular books that might not be seen at used-books stores for a few more years. Commendable auction sites are eauction.ph, ebili.com, pinoyauctions.com and bidshot.com. Great finds include "She's Come Undone," "Tuesdays with Morrie," "Bridget Jones' Diary," Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" series, Christopher Pike novels and "Harry Potter" books.

Other sites to visit include buyandsellph.com, pacific.net.ph's pacific mall and pinoycentral.com and pinoyexchange.com's classifieds section.

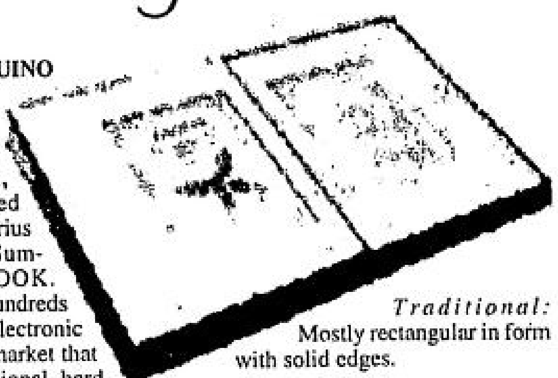
It's late. After rummaging, excavating and haggling all over the Metro, it's finally time to bring home the newly bought treasures. And with that, the book lover snuggles up, tired but content, and reads the blissful night away.



Ebooks pose a threat to the very existence of traditional hardcovers and paperbacks. But, hey, all of us are sentimentalists and would keep our old books even if the universe had gone über-cyber

The case of the vanishing book

BY GILES IVAN AQUINO
2bu! Correspondent

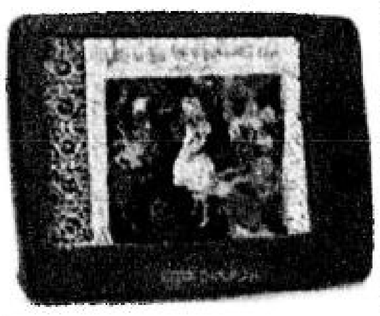


ROCKET eBook, Franklin Ebookman, Everybook's Dedicated Reader, Softbook, Librius Millennium Ebook, Summerwood LunchBOOK. These are some of the hundreds (or even thousands) of electronic books available in the market that pose a threat to traditional hardcovers and paperbacks which we enjoyed as kids.

Books would probably disappear in the not too distant future. The new Bibliothèque de France might not serve for a very long time as a library. It could happen that what was once in print would soon be in electronic. Would it matter that books decompose, since their pages had been transferred on CD-ROMs, online periodicals and computer screens?

If that would be the case then old Mother Goose could be no more than just a holographic reminder of our once colorful and gay childhood. To a certain extent, this would transform existing cultural forms.

But, before we get all paranoid, let's compare an ebook and the conventional book, focusing on the pros and cons.



Price

Ebook: The gadget accounts for P9,000 to P75,000 without any titles installed. Some offer a $20 subscription fee over its publishing and distribution system (e.g. Barnes and Noble, Softbook, Librius World Bookstore, etc.).

Traditional: Varies whether hardcover or paperback. It also depends on the title.

Readability

Ebook: The reader can have a choice of font sizes. Several units offer high-resolution (1280 by 1024 pixel) color screens and a bright backlight to allow reading in difficult, low light areas, such as airplanes or in bed. The display screen is also easily readable in direct sunlight and allows books to be in any language from Chinese to Tagalog.

Traditional: Font sizes do not vary. Provide your own light source.

Shape and form

Ebook: Some, like the Rocket eBook, nestle easily in the curve of your palm. Notable for ease and comfort.

Traditional: Mostly rectangular in form with solid edges.

Weight

Ebook: It can weigh from a pound to 3.6 pounds. The largest capacity can hold up to 500,000 pages. Some offer only a 1,500-page capacity. A brand weighing 1.3-pound can hold up to 4,000 pages.

Traditional: On the average, a paperback with 1,000 pages, having a dimension of 7" x 4", weighs 2 kg.

Size

Ebook: It varies. One is about the size of a paperback.

Traditional: It varies.

Availability

Ebook: Needs to be connected to a PC to download the text down to the ebook although some offer built-in modems (33.6 kbps) for easy download of titles, periodicals, documents, etc. It takes three minutes to download a 300-page book.

Traditional: Can be purchased on the Web also though shipping takes time.

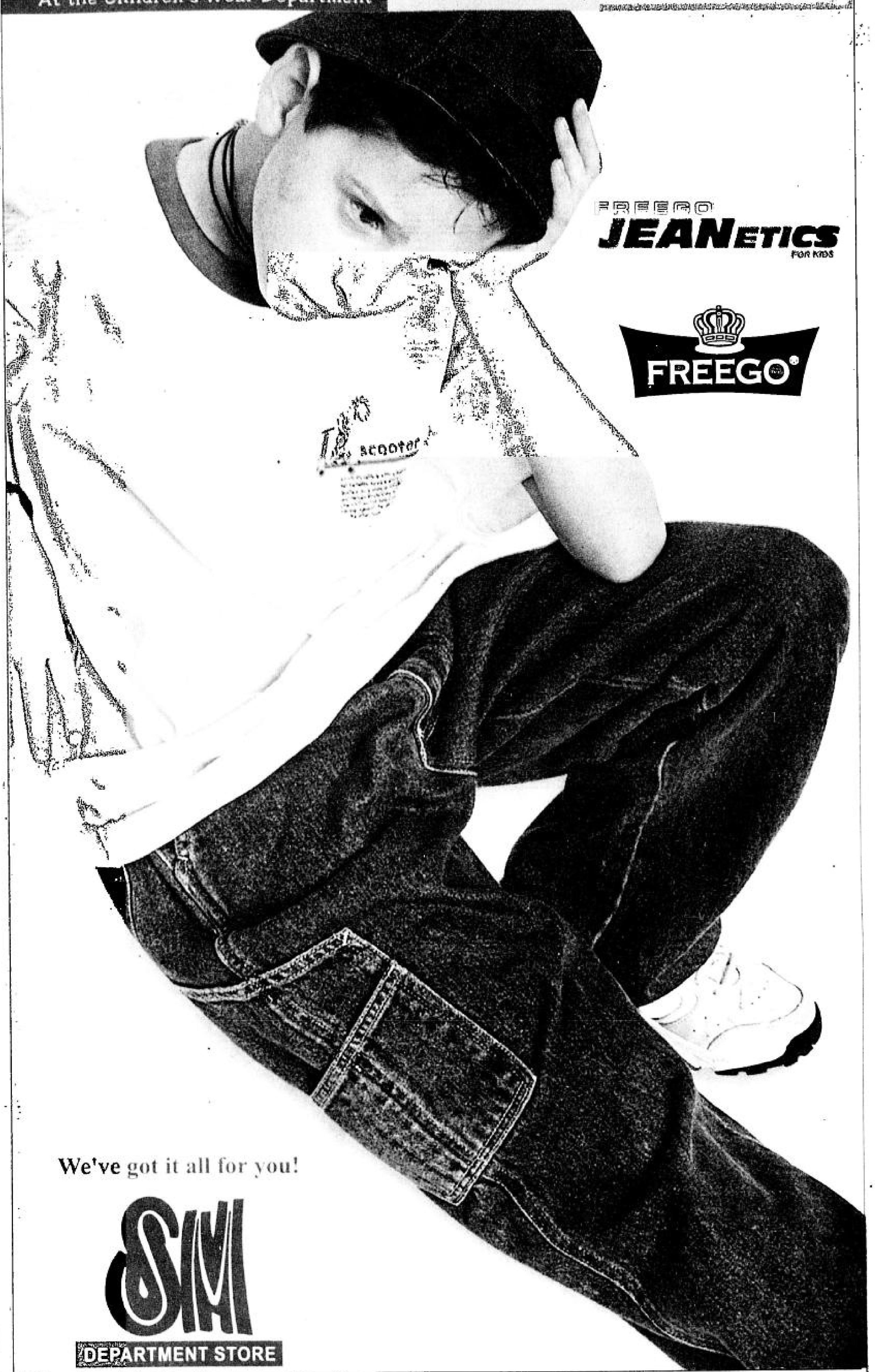
Battery life

Ebook: It has rechargeable and removable batteries that operate for up to 18 hours. Be sure to always have a backup. "And they lived..."?

Traditional: Batteries not needed.

Among the ebook's infinite capabilities is its ability to play audio books and MP3s, annotate directly on the screen, erase, highlight text, bookmark pages, record messages in your own voice, keep track of your important numbers, dates and appointments. In an ebook you can also search for words and phrases, and link to related information.

Sounds too good to be true, but still I won't trade the traditional for the electronic because of one compelling reason. Once a friend gave me this little book titled "Little Secrets of Friendship" during the lowest times of my life. After reading it, I couldn't have been any happier.



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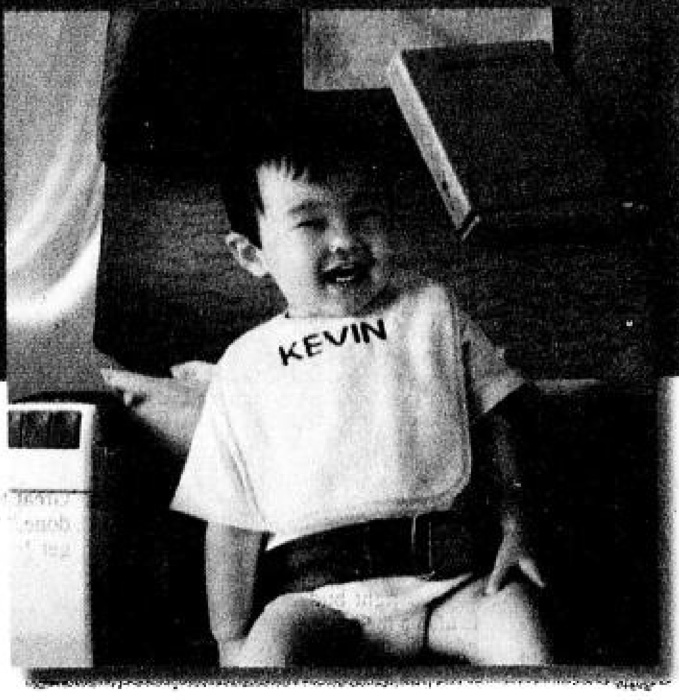

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Inflight entertainment with all this and much, much more at 35,000 feet.†
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† Some components of Studio^CX will be progressively introduced.
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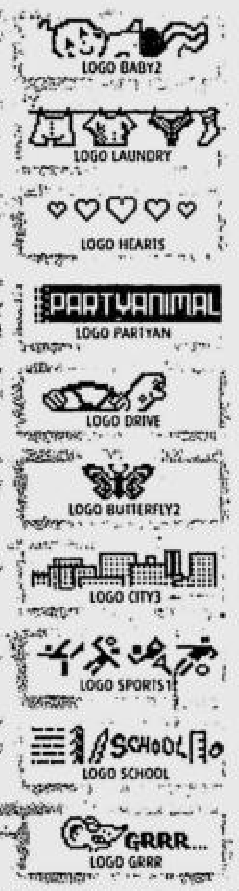
zed™ Hit List

Get a load of this week's most requested downloads by SMART Gold and SMART Buddy subscribers. Keep your eye on this space next week for more ring tones and logos from the zed hitlist. Now, even **Talk N' Text** subscribers can download.

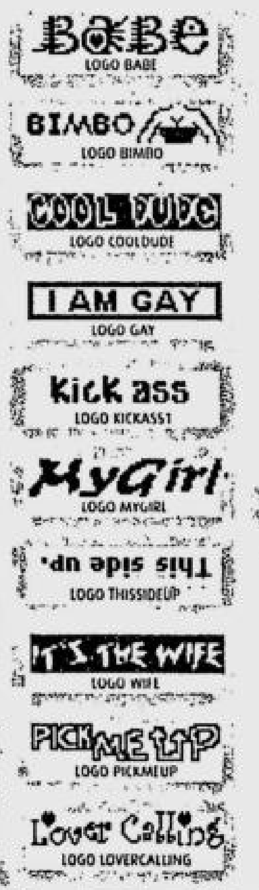
Top Ten Ring Tones

	SONG	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORD
1	Sweet Child O Mine	Guns N' Roses	TONE SWEETCHI
2	Dreaming Of You	Selena	TONE DRIMOFU
3	Strange Love	Depeche Mode	TONE STRNGELV
4	Better Off Alone	Alice Dee Jay	TONE OFFALONE
5	Light My Fire	The Doors	TONE MAFIRE
6	Sweet like Chocolate	Shanks	TONE CHOCLT
7	Breakfast at Tiffany's	Deep Blue Something	TONE TIFFANYS
8	Kiss From A Rose	Seal	TONE KISFROSE
9	Jeopardy Theme	Merv Griffin	TONE JEPRDY
10	Suburbia	Pet Shop Boys	TONE SUBURB

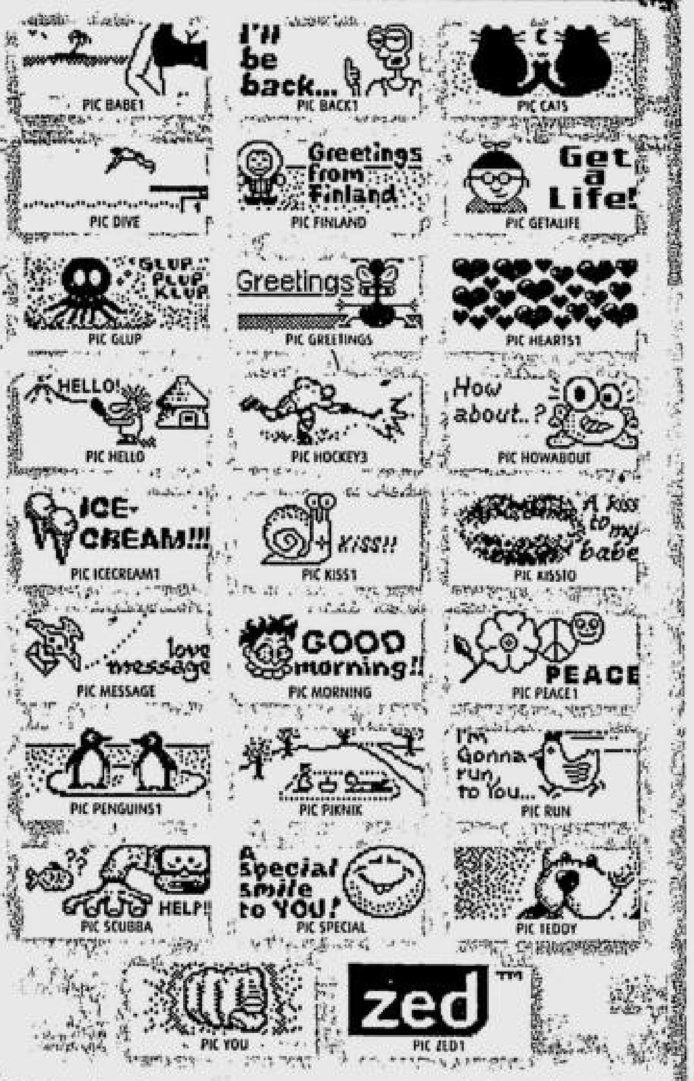
Top Ten Logos



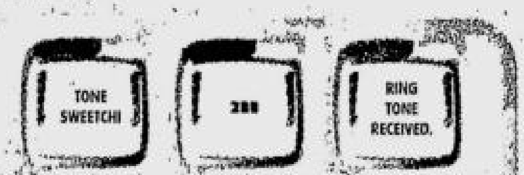
Newest Logos



Newest Pictures Messages



How to get a ringtone, logo or picture message:



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face powder

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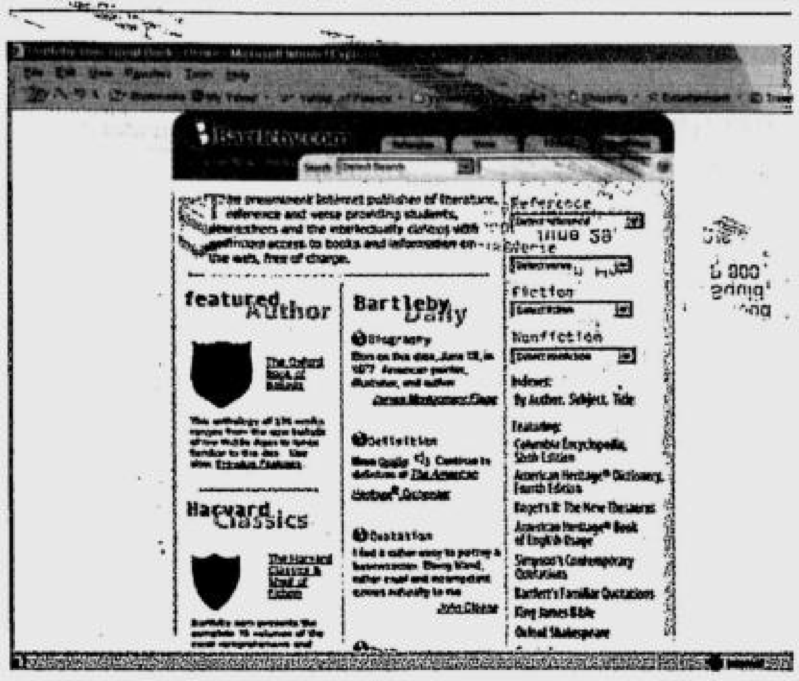

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WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

The classics online

www.bartleby.com

BY PAM PASTOR

DURING last week's supermarket trip with Mom, I made a discovery. What used to be such a simple chore has been overtaken by technological advancement.

I remember the good old days when the solution to losing Mom in the supermarket was to walk around the different aisles trying to catch a glimpse of her checkered shirt. Not anymore. Finding her was the result of a barrage of phone calls and text messages.

And life used to be so simple.

Technology, aside from making our lives easier, has triumphed in another thing. Creating more needs for people. Never mind that we've spent years without e-mail, online banking and Palm tops. We've successfully convinced ourselves that we absolutely cannot live without our PCs and whatever it is that the cyber biggies are cooking up next. Now I find that I cannot go to the supermarket without my phone.

The Internet has even changed the way we appreciate literature. So what if you don't have cold cash to swap for the good old classics? You may now find them online—where you can get them for free.

One afternoon, I decided to log on to Bartleby.com, a site that promises to allow you to read "great books online."

I was impressed. The site not only offered the classics; there were also dictionaries, encyclopedia volumes and books of quotations, a book on etiquette, scientific papers, biographies, "Strunk's Elements of Style" and the Holy Bible. I decided to check out the Philippines in the World Factbook and found a great deal of information, even a sound file to aid in the pronunciation of our country's name. Cool. You may search for books by title, author, subject. It's like a virtual card catalog. (Say goodbye to paper cuts and ancient cards that melt at your touch.)

Choosing which book I should read first was a major problem. Everything was just a click away. I opened a lot of windows and decided to just choose the one with the most interesting first sentence.

I decided to start with a comedy. "The Playboy of the Western World" by J.M. Synge. I could barely understand the first paragraph because of the noise around me. That's the thing with reading online. You can't just grab the monitor and hie off to a quieter place. I decided to postpone reading.

When I finally settled back to read, I decided to go for an old favorite—"Dante's Inferno."

I attacked it with zeal. I started reading Canto 1, but it ticked me that I had to click after every few verses and wait for the page to upload for me to continue reading. And, after only a couple of hours, my eyes hurt like hell. This is from someone who has made a habit of foregoing sleep to stay up reading the whole night.

All in all, let me just say this: Thumbs up for innovation and convenience, but I still prefer books that I can actually touch and curl up with.

E-mail the author at p-a-m-m-y@gurlmail.com

The big winner

CONGRATULATIONS, Jeremias Ibarreta of Bangkal, Makati City! Get your cell phone ready for your new Smart Money SIM pack. You can go to the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets on a Monday between 5-7 p.m. Don't forget your ID. Look for Pam.

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Cooking, Baking and Decorating Classes
JUNE , 2001 Schedule

June 20, Wednesday 9 am –1 pm Chef Mauro Arjona Tuna Tartar in Olive Oil & Lemon Dressing, Split Pea Soup, Seared Seabass Fillet in Oriental Sauce, Gratinated Beef Medallion Topped with Blue Cheese Mousse in Light Red Wine, Jus Potato and Vegetable Confit, Mocca Creampot **P 1500 + Ingredients**

June 21, Thursday 9 am – 1 pm Chef Mauro Arjona Sauteed Froglegs Provencale, with Garlic Crouton, Chilled Vichyssoise, Grilled Blue Marlin in Café de Paris Butter Sauce, Marinated Duck Confit in Mushroom Ragout, Assorted Nut Parfait **P 1,500 + Ingredients**

June 21, Thursday, 2 -6 pm Basic Course on Pastas and Sauces Homemade Noodles, Basic Tomato Sauce, Spaghetti Bolognese, Carbonara, Putanesca, Baked Lasagne and Baked Seafood Spaghetti **P 800**

June 22, Friday, 2-6 pm Basic Baking Learn the very basics of baking from measuring to presentation! Chiffon Cake, Stabilized Whipped Cream Frosting: Coffee Crunch Cake, Sponge Cake: Strawberry and White Chocolate Trifle, Butter Cake; Flaky Pie Crusts: American Apple Pie **P 1,000**

June 25, Monday 1-6 pm Simple Breads and Yeast Doughs Pan de Sal, Ensalmada Espesyal, Ube Ensalmada, Pear Walnut Bread, Cinnamon Rolls with Different Toppings **P 1,000**

June 26, Tuesday 9 am-1 pm Chef Mauro Arjona Don't miss this important lesson on **BASIC CLASSICAL SAUCES** Hollandaise, Bernaise, Chasseur, Demi-Glace, Veloute (Fish, Leek and Mushroom), Bordelaise, Peppercorn Sauce, Chasseur, Tomato Butter Sauce as they apply to grilled Meats and Seafood **P 1,500 + Ingredients**

June 26, Tuesday 2-5:30 pm Italian Cookery 2 Minestrone, Pasta with Lamb Sauce, Cheese Sauce, Black Olive Pate, Mozarella Carozza (Sandwich), Zucchini and Eggplant Lasagna, Tiramisu **P 800**

June 28, Thursday 9am –1 pm A complete course on Sweet and Savory Souffles! Not to be missed! Sweet Souffle Base, Vanilla Sauce, Chocolate Sauce, Praline, Banana, Mango, Orange Grand Marnier, Savory Souffle Base, Sauteed Mushroom, Spinach, Salmon, Prawn, Bacon Cheese Chives **P 1500 plus Ingredients**

June 28, Thursday, 2-5:30 pm Italian Cookery 3 Garlic and Pine Nut Tarts, Mussels in White Wine, Pasta Vongole, Spaghetti with Smoked Salmon, Seafood Lasagne, Stuffed Squid, Italian Honey Cake **P 800**

June 29, Friday, 2-6 pm Special Baking, Death by Chocolate, Moist Brownies, Mango Tango, Mango Layer Cake **P 1,200**

June 30, Saturday 9-12 nn Best of THAI COOKING Tom Yum Goong, Tom Kha Gai, Phad Thai Noodles, Steamed Lapu Lapu, Flaming Seafood Curry, Chicken Curry, Beef Curry **P 1,000**

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